Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-041
Wednesday
2 March 1988

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-88-041 *2 March 1988*

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LD021400 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran struck back at Iraq by firing four surface-to-surface missiles at Baghdad 1-2 March, while Iraq launched seven more missiles at Tehran and two at Qom. The launchings against Baghdad were announced in IRGC statements broadcast by Tehran radio. Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio acknowledged that three missiles had fallen on Baghdad, killing and wounding an unspecified number of people.

The radio also broadcast announcements of the strikes on Tehran and Qom by Iraq's "Al-Husayn" missiles. The attack on Qom confirms that "every single den of the Iranian rulers is within reach of Iraq's strong arm," according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses. The radio had earlier carried announcements of Iraqi air strikes on the Iranian cities of Hamadan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Rasht on 1 March.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned Iraq in a 2 March speech broadcast by Tehran radio that the missile bombardment does not frighten the Iranian people, and he contended that such attacks only make the people stronger. On the Iranian casualty toll, WIH chief Kamal Kharrazi told journalists 1 March that 27 civilians had thus far been killed and 100 others wounded, IRNA noted. Another 15 people were injured in subsequent attacks on Tehran, while five people were killed and four wounded in the Iraqi air raid near Rasht, IRNA disclosed 2 March. Tehran radio said the first Iraqi missile attack on Qom and the raids on Hamadan and Zanjan caused no casualties.

Despite Iraq's claim to be using domestically-manufactured missiles, Kamal Kharrazi stated that the Iranians know which country supplied Iraq with the "old missiles" it is using and he said Iran will name this country at an appropriate time, according to IRNA. Kharrazi did not mention the Soviet Union, though Tehran radio reported earlier that the Iranian Foreign Ministry had summoned the Soviet ambassador in Tehran to demand "explanations" from the USSR regarding Iraq's use of "Russian missiles" against Iran.

One foreign visitor to Tehran during the Iraqi missile bombardment on 29 February-1 March was Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who subsequently noted in remarks broadcast by Ankara radio that there were up to eight such attacks during his brief stay in Tehran. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered a 2-hour lull in the bombardment on 1 March in response to an appeal by Ozal, INA noted.

Jordan and the Shultz Mission

Reporting on King Husayn's talks with Secretary of State George Shultz in London, Amman television noted that Husayn listened to a detailed explanation from Shultz of the new U.S. ideas to advance the peace process. Husayn responded by stressing the "constants" of Jordan's stand, including its rejection of "partial, short-term, and separate settlements." The king indicated that "elements of the U.S. ideas need to be developed in order to be in harmony with the requisites of a comprehensive and just peace," the report added.

A Jordanian Embassy statement cited by London PRESS ASSOCIATION confirmed that there was no major breakthrough in the talks, though it noted that Husayn urged Shultz to continue his efforts. In Cairo, MENA announced that Shultz will visit Egypt on 4 March and that he will meet there with several Palestinians selected from a list approved by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

In other diplomatic developments, King Husayn received the Soviet ambassador at his London residence following the talks with Shultz, Amman radio disclosed. The envoy delivered a message on the Middle East issue from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Husayn subsequently met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the radio reported, noting that Britain has agreed to sell Jordan eight Tornado jet aircraft.

Israel

Election Date—The move toward holding early elections is gaining momentum, Jerusalem television noted in a report on the 1 March Inner Cabinet session. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi urged immediate elections because of the current impasse between the coalition partners, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the television that he has no objection to early elections if the date is agreed between the Likud and Alignment.

Territories—A leaflet signed by the "Unified National Command of the Uprising" is urging all Arabs employed by the Israeli authorities to resign from their jobs, Jerusalem television reported. The report viewed the demand as PLO-inspired, noting that it would paralyze local services and would cause some 20,000 people to lose their salaries and pension rights.

In the wake of the controversy aroused by a film of IDF soldiers torturing two Palestinians in Nabulus, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the two youths who were beaten will be prosecuted for throwing stones. In another development, the IDF has begun investigating allegations that IDF soldiers beat up a mentally handicapped Arab in the Gaza Strip 28 February, THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

Lebanon

The two kidnapped Scandinavian UNRWA workers were released 1 March and subsequently left Lebanon for their home countries, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. An UNRWA official said they are in "good health," the radio said, noting that the two men gave a press conference before their departure. One of the men told journalists that he did not know the identity of his kidnappers, but he said the abduction was politically motivated. The release of the two Scandinavians was announced by the "Revolutionary Cells," which issued a statement saying the decision to free them was made after an interrogation had "proved their innocence," AFP reported.

In contrast, the "Oppressed on Earth" organization distributed a statement announcing its intention to put U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins on "trial" after completing his interrogation, Beirut radio reported. The statement criticized attempts to play down Higgins' "spying" role and indicated that the kidnappers have extracted "evidence" from Higgins of a "U.S.-Israeli deal" on south Lebanon.

North Africa Affairs

Libyan Planes in Egypt—Four Libyan Mig-23's flown by Libyan pilots landed at an Egyptian airport 1 March, an Egyptian source announced in a statement cited by MENA. Asked about the incident following his return from a visit to Sudan, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stated that "this is their country," adding that the matter is "under discussion," MENA noted. Monitored Libyan media have not been observed to mention the landing of Libyan planes in Egypt.

Mubarak in Sudan—President Mubarak held talks with Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other Sudanese leaders during an 8-hour visit to Khartoum, SUNA reported. Al-Mahdi described the meeting as "successful and friendly," noting that the talks covered bilateral relations and implementation of the "brotherhood charter." At a news conference reported by MENA, Mubarak stressed Egypt's concern to help Sudan resolve its security problems and to narrow the differences between Sudan and Ethiopia. On the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mubarak said he has "reservations" about the current U.S. proposals.

Libyan Policy—Ndjamena radio reported that Libya has moved some 2,000 troops of its "Islamic Legion" into the Sudanese province of Darfur in preparation for a new "aggression" against Chad. Meanwhile, a Sudanese paper cited by MENA warned that the security situation in western Sudan will be affected by the current "deterioration" in Libyan-Sudanese relations. Three Libyan diplomats have been withdrawn from Khartoum following the closure of the Libyan cultural center in the Sudanese capital, the paper disclosed.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Afghanistan is not going to make any new demands and it believes the introduction of "new elements" at this phase will contradict the general desire for an early end to the conflict, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil stated in Geneva in remarks cited by TASS.

For Pakistan's part, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani reaffirmed that the question of troop withdrawal should be taken up "side by side" with the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan, Islamabad radio noted. He stressed Pakistan's desire for a comprehensive settlement, not a partial one, warning that Afghan refugees currently in Pakistan and Iran will not return home without the formation of a transitional government.

In a separate development, Islamabad radio reported that one person was killed and three injured in a bomb blast in Peshawar 1 March.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement carried by Tehran radio claimed that the Geneva talks will not open the way to a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Afghan issue, but will instead make new difficulties for the Afghan people. The statement contended that the outcome of the talks has been predetermined by the superpowers, who have been maneuvering for a compromise that will make a "scapegoat" of the Afghan people.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Condemns Missile Attacks on Iraq

JN011623 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the Iranian regime's crime which entailed the firing of missiles on Baghdad and other densely-populated Iraqi areas. This crime martyred a number of children, women, and elderly people.

In the cable which he sent to President Saddam Husayn on behalf of the Palestinian masses, 'Arafat reiterated support for Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression in defense of the Arab nation's eastern flank. He also emphasized that the battle is one, whether it is being waged in Gaza or in Basra.

Damascus Radio Reports Uprising Statement No 9

JN011248 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory today affirmed that the uprising will continue until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and that George Shultz' mission in the area has failed as the Palestinian Arab people have boycotted it.

In its Statement No 9, which was distributed today, the Unified National Leadership of the uprising calls for proclaiming 5 March the day of return to the land and proclaiming 6 March the day of the Palestinian flag on which Palestinian flags will be flown on all buildings and houses in the occupied Arab territory.

Statement No 9 also urges Palestinian women to demonstrate on 8 March on World Women's Day. The statement also calls for a general and total strike on Martyrs Day to commemorate the memory of Palestinian martyrs who were killed by the occupation forces during the uprising.

The statement stresses the need for continuing the general strike. It urges Arab citizens to boycott Israeli goods and to refuse to pay taxes.

Attitude on Contacts With U.S. Explained

PM020941 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 88 p 1,2

[Zaki Musa Report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Explores Leaders' Stand on Occupied Territories: No Meeting With Shultz Except in Arab or Western Capital"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian figures inside the occupied Arab territories have unanimously agreed that a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his current visit to the Zionist entity is out of the question.

During telephone contacts by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from London, a number of these figures maintained that unless a change takes place in the U.S. stand toward recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of the right to self-determination, such a meeting would be futile. The figures revealed that a meeting held last Friday at the home of the U.S. consul in occupied Jerusalem had failed. It was attended by U.S. envoy Wat Cluverius to pave the way for a meeting between Shultz and Palestinian figures during his current visit.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a meeting with Shultz is out of the question at present or in the future unless the known U.S. noes are abandoned, namely, the refusal to hold talks with the PLO, the rejection of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the rejection of the right to self-determination.

The mayor of Bethlehem said: The problem is not only to do with the West Bank and Gaza Strip; it lies in the roots and ramifications the Arab-israeli conflict has created. I do not think a dialogue is possible without negotiations with the PLO or its representatives.

Frayj described the meeting held at the home of the U.S. consul in Jerusalem, which was attended by U.S. envoy Cluverius and five figures from the West Bank, as well as five others from the Gaza Strip, as an attempt to discuss all possible solutions. He said the U.S. envoy presented a plan for an interim administration; if this were agreed upon within 6 months, negotiations would then begin to find an interim solution for a period of 3 years, after which negotiations between the two parties would be held to find a final solution under international auspices (supervision without powers).

Frayj called on the United States to break the shackles imposed on its policy by Henry Kissinger in 1975.

He affirmed that the only acceptable decision regarding a meeting with the U.S. secretary would be for a delegation representing Palestinians from both inside and outside [the occupied territories] to meet with the U.S. secretary in Cairo, Amman, London, Paris, or Washington.

Frayj said officials in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem have not given up contacting known Palestinian figures to persuade them to agree to a meeting with Shultz—a meeting scheduled for noon today, but it was explained to them that this was out of the question.

Rashad al-Shawwa, former Gaza mayor, said Shultz is not bringing anything new with him; what he intends to discuss does not go beyond the superficialities of the subject. Whereas the problem, apart from the Balfour Declaration, began in 1948 and was the cause of the Palestinians' departure to camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The time will come and rights will be restored to their proponents.

Al-Shawwa added: There is no way that autonomy can silence us since it is unacceptable and we would not sign. In the past the number of those demanding self-determination, independence, and the end of occupation was limited, but today the entire people are demanding it, from children of 6 to old people of 70 or 80.

He also said: We do not think the Israelis have any intention of withdrawing from a single inch of land. Therefore, we demand that an international conference be convened to discuss the issue, providing it is given the power to impose a just solution and does not act as a cover, as Shimʻon Peres wants it to. Without all that there will be no talk of settlements, and let the uprising continue: Today with slings and stones, tomorrow with God knows what.

When contacted, Mustafa al-Natshah, former Hebron mayor, said: In 1985 the U.S. Government expressed its willingness to meet with a delegation appointed by the PLO. So why does this not take place at this stage; after all, a meeting without its approval has always proved impossible.

He added: We are seeking a peaceful solution. And if the United States is convinced of this, a meeting in any capital of the world with a delegation selected by the PLO from Palestinians inside and outside the territories would constitute the beginning of a correct U.S. approach toward a solution to the problem.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that among the figures who met with the U.S. envoy last week were Dr Yasir ʻUbayd, Saʻid Kamal, Ilyas Frayj, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, ʻIsam al-Shawwa, and Hanna al-ʻAtrash. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Cited on Saudi Arabian Donations

PM011159 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 1

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Al-Natshah: PLO Has Received $855 Million; King Fahd Has Given Orders for Assistance To Be Continued Following His Country's Fulfillment of Its Commitments"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Office—Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, has announced that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn ʻAbd al-ʻAziz has given orders for a quantity of foodstuffs to be sent to the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Palestinian official stated that the custodian of the two holy mosques has also given orders for the Kingdom to continue paying the amounts to which it committed itself at the Baghdad summit to assist the PLO and it has done what it pledged to do; the Kingdom's payments to the PLO totaled $855 million over the last 10 years.

He went on to say: King Fahd has given orders for the continuation of this commitment as it used to be previously at the Baghdad summit. Previously, we used to receive three yearly installments; the first installment was in the amount of $28.5 million and we have now started to receive six yearly installments; one installment in the amount of $14.3 million and we received the first installment the day before yesterday.

Al-Natshah pointed out that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is the first and only Arab state to have continued to assist the PLO without interruption as it used to do previously via its commitment at the Baghdad summit. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Iran's Larijani Arrives, Comments on War

LD0020948 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, March 2, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani arrived here last night for talks with Algerian officials and to hand Iranian president's message to his Algerian counterpart.

Larijani will meet with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi to discuss mutual relations, the regional situation, and international issues.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA here, Larijani, commenting on resumption of the "war of cities" by Iraq, said it once again proves that no plan would be successful to end the Iran-Iraq conflict except identification and punishment of the aggressor and the war criminal (Iraq).

In Larijani's opinion, a possible arms embargo against Iran would be in the interest of the Islamic Republic in the long run. Because, he said, the approval of such an embargo at the United Nations would put an end to the international body's efficiency to study the very issue of the war and would halt the activities of the U.N. secretary general in this regard. Then, he said, the only way to end the war would be through military means.

The Iranian official urged the United Nations to condemn Iraq's renewed attacks on Iran's civilian quarters and adopt a "firm stance against these crimes."

Brahimi Cited on Economy, Maghreb Integration

PM2914A3 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17 Feb 88 pp 37-39

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi by Durayd 'Awni; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Awni] Is what is happening at the economic level in Algeria a logical development of the previous reforms or an intrinsic economic and ideological transformation?

[Brahimi] Let us start with the matter of ideology and put an end to the current tendency to equate socialism with economic failure. We in Algeria derive our policy from the charter which is the source of our ideology. The charter clearly stipulated that administrative models ought to develop and not solidify into dogmatic molds. What is happening is a development, a profound development of what we began in 1980. Enterprise independence is nothing new. It is the final stage of the reforms we began in 1980 in conformity with the resolutions of the extraordinary party conference.

We began by restructuring the enterprises. At the same time we developed a wage policy, a prices policy, a credit policy, a tax policy, and an education policy in line with economic development, so that they can play their role in providing the economy with its growing needs for skilled labor and an experienced administration. At the end of this stage we entered a decisive stage. The laws approved by the National Assembly at the end of 1987 were only the first group in a collection of other laws which deepen and complete the previous stages.

The logical approach linking all these laws is the necessity of freeing the enterprise from the restrictions and bureaucracy which have surrounded it, and the daily interventions of the ministry concerned. All this has kept it from its fundamental task of production. The purpose of all the decisions made is to prepare the ground and all the appropriate factors so that the enterprise can devote itself to production and to increasing and improving output—in other words, anything which would prepare it to face the market laws of supply and demand and the discussion of prices and quality. The task of the enterprise is to contribute to increasing economic growth and realizing profits. [passage omitted]

['Awni] What is the situation regarding foreign investments in Algeria?

[Brahimi] The field is open within the scope of the laws defining the scale of contribution (49 percent for the foreign side) via joint companies. These companies can invest their money in all sectors other than agriculture. But in the sphere of tourism, foreign companies can own 100 percent of the company's shares.

['Awni] Enterprises have been given powers to import and export. Will the state be lifting its monopoly on foreign trade?

[Brahimi] The state will continue to maintain its control of foreign trade. Is this not the case even in liberal states? For instance, did not France ban the import of videos from Japan? However, we will most certainly introduce amendments to facilitate the process of foreign trade, especially since we are definitely veering toward imports. [passage omitted]

['Awni] What about the agricultural sector?

[Brahimi] The agricultural sector is passing through an extremely important stage. The number of farms to become independent will exceed 2,300. (Public sector farms were called socialist farms). [passage omitted]

['Awni] Is there the intention to reschedule Algeria's debts? (According to IMF estimates it has reached $21 billion).

[Brahimi] We will not ask for our debts to be rescheduled and we will pay the interest on the date specified, that is because we want our independence and we do not want foreign institutions interfere -el dictating to us an economic policy which does' ant us.

['Awni] What stage has the building of the Greater Arab Maghreb reached? And can it be built in the current political Arab climate?

[Brahimi] A Greater Arab Maghreb has always been a quest over the course of time for each of its states. The liberation movements spurred on this quest and it exists in the charter of the Maghreb states. What is different this time is that we have started—far removed from slogans—to give it tangible meaning. We have started with the economy. The Maghreb states' economies resemble one another, if indeed they are not competing with one mother. We have started step by step and our basic aim is to find wide "economic space" which will enable us to set up big projects no state would be able to undertake on its own.

We have strengthened Algeria's bilateral relations with Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania. We have also set up dozens of joint companies in various sectors, such as industry, agriculture, machine building, petroleum, electronics, and so on. Through these companies the Greater Maghreb has become a tangible reality. We have gone a long way in this regard. The next phase will be a collective one, and the next Maghreb summit will lay down the framework and the machinery of implementation.

Libya has agreed in principle to join the fraternity and concord treaty, and we are realistic enough to know that each phase has its constraints and its aims. Our generation will solve what it is able to, and the generations to come will complete the task.

['Awni] And Morocco?

[Brahimi] The building of the Arab Maghreb, which now includes four states, is not directed against anyone, least of all Morocco. If Rabat is today outside this structure, it is a temporary absence due to a single reason—the Sahara problem. If this problem were to be settled according to the UN and OAU resolutions, then the Greater Maghreb will be made up of six states. And we will not forget that European unity started with 6 states, then 9, then 12. I would like once again to emphasize here what President Chadli Bendjedid is always repeating:

Algeria is against the policy of axes. And I would even like to mention the big role it has played in its quiet and perceptive manner in clearing the air between Libya and Tunisia, especially concerning the subject of Libya's compensation for the Tunisian workers, a problem which was one of the biggest obstacles to reconciliation.

['Awni] How do you view economic relations between the Arab states?

[Brahimi] They have been activated to some degree but they still remain weak. The Arab states ought to work to seek integration between them instead of competing as they do now—and that will require quite some time. Creating blocks such as the GCC and the Greater Maghreb is a positive step toward intensifying exchanges first within these blocks, then between the Arab states. [passage omitted]

['Awni] What are the results of the recent visit by European Community President Jacques Delors to Algeria?

[Brahimi] It was an important and beneficial visit. Delors met with Algeria's leadership and explained the European merger to us, especially in anticipation of 1992 when all the barriers and borders will disappear, and the consequences that will result from that. He asked us about the steps toward building the Greater Maghreb and about the economic reforms in Algeria, especially the enterprises and agriculture.

As regards cooperation between Algeria and the EEC, we have reached the stage of drawing up a plan and creating the structure of the cooperation. Also, we have specified the content and the goal, and the stage of specifying joint projects will follow that.

Chad

Commentary Criticizes Libyan Buildup in Darfur

AB012110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] There have been some new developments in the Libyan aggression against Chad. After the Libyan preparations denounced by the Chadian authorities a few weeks ago, Tripoli is now sending large numbers of troops to Chad's northwestern and western borders. But what does this situation indicate?

We are heading for a new Libyan military offensive against Chad. This was confirmed yesterday by an important movement of a column of the Islamic Legion, composed of more than 2,000 troops under the command of 600 Libyan officers and soldiers, toward Sudan's Darfur Province. Once again, Darfur Province is in the limelight. These troops, which have entered Darfur Province from the area west of Al-Fatir, have thus (joined) up with the many other thousands of troops already stationed in the Sudanese territory — something which was done with the complicity of the Khartoum authorities.

Indeed, it is a heterogenous army without any purpose; it includes troops from the Libyan regular army and mercenaries of all kinds recruited by the officers of Al-Azizia Barracks.

All these movements and deployment of troops are aimed at launching further military aggression against our country. This is why the head of state recently sounded the alarm by announcing a considerable Libyan military buildup, not only at the eastern border but also at the northern and western borders of our country on the basis of an important (?Niger-Libya) [word indistinct].

This situation has once again confirmed Al-Qadhdhafi's strong desire to continue the war against Chad, while the OAU, through its ad hoc committee, is making laudable efforts for a peaceful solution to the Libya-Chad conflict. While all eyes are turned on Dakar, where the heads of state of the committee's member-countries will meet from 10 to 12 April, Al-Qadhdhafi has now brought [words indistinct] ordered by the OAU to [words indistinct] preparations for the war and continued violation of the Chadian airspace.

In these conditions, we were right to stress Al-Qadhdhafi's unwillingness to honestly contribute to the peace initiatives undertaken by the OAU. Al-Qadhdhafi, who is the killer of the Libyan and African peoples, only has faith in the military way of solving the Libya-Chad border dispute. Therefore, he is not ready to end his ambitions on Chad [words indistinct] wide territories which he dreams of ruling, and the area of which [words indistinct]

But what is happening now among the mercenaries Al-Qadhdhafi has recruited who are temporarily based in Libya, waiting to be taken to the front? A general dissatisfaction prevails within the mercenaries' camps because the petro-dinars have started (?dwindling); he is running short of financial resources. Moreover, [words indistinct] the bad habit of recruiting, the (?mercenaries) have become increasingly aware of the danger involved in the adventure into which Al-Qadhdhafi will launch them [passage indistinct].

Waiting for the results of the Dakar meeting, the international public is called as a witness in the face of this new behavior of Tripoli. As for Khartoum and its government, Chad reiterates its appeal for a sense of responsibility in order to avoid turning the Sudanese territory into a powderkeg and an aggressive base against a neighboring and brotherly country. Otherwise, Chad will assume its responsibility, which will affect the peace and understanding in the region.

Habre Returns From CEEAC Summit 28 Feb

AB282035 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Hissein Habre returned to Ndjamena this afternoon from Kinshasa, Zaire, where he attended the fourth ordinary session of the CEEAC [Economic Community of Central African States] conference of the heads of state and government. He was welcomed at Ndjamena International Airport by Minister of State Djidingar Dono Ngardoum, top Chadian officials, and diplomats accredited to Ndjamena. [passage omitted]

'Meningitis Epidemic' Reported in Ndjamena

AB292052 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Public Health has just brought us a press release which reads as follows:

The inhabitants and medical personnel of the health centers in Ndjamena and its vicinity have noticed that many people suffering from the cerebro-spinal meningitis disease have been admitted to the Ndjamena Central Hospital over the past few days. In view of the increasing number of people affected, it can be said there is a meningitis epidemic in the capital.

The country's medical authorities, who are well aware of this alarming situation, have already organized many meetings to bring together the technicians of the Ministry of Public Health and representatives of international institutions, with the view to finding ways and means to combat the epidemic. [passage omitted]

Low Power Television Begins Broadcasts

AB261458 Paris AFP in French 0910 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 26 Feb (AFP)—Three cameras, four video tape recorders, two television sets, and one 100-watt transmitter. These are the only arsenal of [word indistinct] origin that a dozen journalists, cameramen, and technicians have been using to operate a television station in Chad for 2 months now. The idea of "Tele-Chad" came up unexpectedly last December during the summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) held in the Chadian capital. Despite their scanty resources, the Chadian authorities have done everything to restore Ndjamena's past radiance. They also promised to overcome the challenge of having the event covered by a hitherto nonexistent national television.

Until then, no one could predict the birth of Tele-Chad. However, a handful of journalists from the print media and the radio as well as a similar number of technicians without specific experience have overcome the challenge. Starting on 10 December, the first programs were telecast to the great surprise of Ndjamena residents. The national news agency ATP [CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY] wrote humorously that "the secret had been well kept (...) and those Chadians who thought that they were better informed looked silly when the first images from Tele-Chad appeared on the screens."

Improvisation has given way to the lack of equipment. The Chadian television has neither a central control room nor professional equipment. All its programs are

recorded on tapes and sent to the transmission center located at Goundji, a suburb of Ndjamena. The 100-watt transmitter with a 15-km radius does not meet the needs either.

Monitoring Tele-Chad is a particularly acrobatic feat. The sound and image frequencies are such that an ordinary television set cannot receive both at the same time. One has to choose between a silent image or sound without any image. Otherwise, one has to get a multisystem television set, which is still rare and costly on the Ndjamena market.

Every problem has a solution. The technicians discovered the trick of coupling the television set with an FM radio. In doing so, the sound and the image are perfectly synchronized.

Tele-Chad lacks specialized technicians and trained journalists, and it is operating without a budget. It is only functional thanks to the generosity of "goodwill persons" who provide on a daily basis the funds needed for the running costs. In view of that, the residents of Ndjamena say this is "all a miracle."

Despite all these vicissitudes, what was designed to have been the televising of one conference has continued, carrying regular programs on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings and on Sunday mornings. The programs comprise essentially current news and events—which sometimes last 1 hour— Chadian and foreign music, video films, cartoons, or documentaries.

Tele-Chad is now in competition with the Cameroonian Television, CTV, which can be monitored from Ndjamena and along the border with Cameroon. The dynamism and tenaciousness of the promoters and agents of the Chadian television have earned them admiration.

A second transmitter ordered from France and with the same modulation procedure as Cameroonian television is expected to rid the Chadian television viewers-listeners of the current gymnastics. But there is already talk in Ndjamena about the possibility of "friendly countries" providing technical assistance as well as assistance in improving the programs. This would enable Tele-Chad to rise beyond this probational phase.

Egypt

4 Libyan MiG-23 Aircraft Reportedly Land

NC011541 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—A responsible source has stated that four Libyan MiG-23 aircraft landed at one of the Egyptian airports at 1309 today. The aircraft were piloted by Libyan pilots.

Mubarak Returns, Views Sudan, Shultz Tour

NC012140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo tonight after a visit to Khartoum that lasted several hours.

He was received upon his return at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Dr Amal 'Uthman, minister of social insurance and social affairs; 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq, minister of manpower and training; 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and Governor of Cairo Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib.

In a statement to journalists at the airport, President Mubarak said: We want to maintain good relations with all states. We do not want our relations to deteriorate with anyone.

He added: It is our nature to improve our relations with all the states of the world. We do not want relations to deteriorate between Sudan and any other state, whichever it might be. On the contrary, we want good relations to prevail among all states.

Mubarak continued: We are cautious with those who deal with us cautiously. With regard to Libya, we have no problems with it; rather, it has a problem with us. May God guide them and, God willing, matters will return to normal.

Mubarak said: From the bottom of my heart, I hope that everything will go well in Sudan. I also wish for an end to the battles in the south, and that the problems of the south will be solved. I hope that our brothers in the south and all those who love peace will understand the importance of this matter, because the only result of the fighting in the south is the squandering of resources and unnecessary bloodshed. The beneficiaries of this fighting are not the local forces in Sudan.

Answering a question on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' statement that he has developed some concrete ideas, President Mubarak said: I have not been informed about these ideas, which are expected to be submitted to all parties within 2 days. Therefore, I cannot predict, but I will say that the acceptable principles are those that will lead us to a comprehensive solution at an international peace conference.

President Mubarak said this stand is understood by all parties, except Mr Shamir. He emphasized that we must arrive at everything through an international conference. He said: All parties must understand this. I hope the

Israelis will understand it, as well as Mr Shamir. I hope that they will not be afraid of an international conference—something which I have emphasized several times.

President Mubarak said: If we want peace, which is dear, it must come through an international conference, which all states have approved, except Mr Shamir.

Asked to comment on the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran, President Mubarak said: I pray to God that this war will end.

Answering a question on today's incident in which four Libyan MiG's landed at an Egyptian airport, President Mubarak said: This is their country. The matter is under discussion.

Shultz To Visit Cairo 4 Mar, Meet Palestinians

NC011530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—According to diplomatic sources, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is expected to pay a second visit to Cairo on Friday. The visit, which will last a few hours, comes within the framework of his new Mideast tour which will begin within the coming few days.

During his visit to Cairo, Shultz will confer with President Husni Mubarak; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs. According to the same sources, during the visit Shultz will also meet with several Palestinian figures selected from a list approved by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Shultz' second visit to Cairo comes within the framework of the new U.S. move, which began on 25 February with a series of shuttle visits during which Shultz presented U.S. ideas to the leaders of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

It is known that Shultz will meet today in London with King Husayn of Jordan. He will later go to Brussels to brief U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his talks in the Middle East. Shultz and Reagan will be attending the NATO summit in Brussels.

Organization Informer's Actions Detailed

PM021201 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 3

[Mustafa Bakri Report: "Secrets Revealed for First Time About Egypt's Revolution Organization"]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday morning the public prosecutor released a bill of indictment concerning the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization. Twenty people were indicted. The prosecution recommended that death sentences be passed on 11 of them, foremost among them defendant No 1, Mahmud Nur al-Din al-Sayyid, defendant No 2, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, and defendant No 3, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din, who informed the U.S. Embassy of the organization's secrets.

The bill of indictment dropped two charges of plotting to overthrow the regime and making intelligence contacts with a foreign country in this case; thus, the defendants will be tried for the murder of Zionist elements and attempting to murder some CIA men. The case is expected to cause widespread reaction on both local and international levels, since the son of [late President Jamal] 'Abd al-Nasir is among the main defendants in this case.

Today, AL-AHRAR reveals to its readers secrets published for the first time about the Egypt's Revolution Organization; it also reveals for the first time the true story of how the organization was uncovered.

Ahmad 'Isam al-Din Sulayman: An unknown name in the arena, he has no political history or influence that pushes him to the center of events or the limelight so he can become a star. He is an ordinary citizen, but he is not that simple. He might be shaken, but he knows how to look composed. His occupation: owner of a sand bricks factory at the 15 May city. He was a reserve officer in the Egyptian Army. [passage omitted]

After he dialed the telephone number with an unsteady hand he said quickly: I want to speak to the U.S. ambassador on a serious and important matter.

He was asked: What important matter? He replied: A serious matter concerning the Egypt's Revolution Organization.

Ahmad did not know whether the person talking to him was the ambassador or someone else. But during his call he set conditions in return for his readiness to reveal all information relating to the mysterious organization.

I want half a million dollars transferred to a Swiss bank, a U.S. passport, and to leave the embassy directly for the airport, for a flight to the United States.

Obviously he did not receive a swift answer, but was promised that his demands would be met. For his part, he promised to call again. It has been reported that the Egyptian security services knew of what was going on but waited to see what the U.S. stand would be.

A few hours later the U.S. Embassy informed Egyptian security services of all that had happened. It was said that the security services agreed with the U.S. Embassy to send a number of their men to the embassy's headquarters to monitor the call once the caller telephoned the embassy.

'Isam did not know why he was hesitating a second time, despite the fact that he had decided to go ahead with his plan. Anyhow, his hesitation did not last long. He made his telephone call and the answer was encouraging. 'Isam went to the U.S. Embassy and met with the ambassador and some CIA men. At first he stuttered and did not put his information in order. In fact he said things to draw attention before he could begin delivering his information. Among what he reported was Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's involvement in the organization: He provided us with money and arms and encouraged us to kill the Israelis and Americans. [passage omitted]

A few minutes later 'Isam began to make his confessions in full at the rate of $50,000 per hour, transferred directly to his account in Switzerland, as agreed.

Those who know 'Isam say that he worships money. That is why he said a great deal; some things were true and others were fabricated. However, he remained a prisoner at the embassy for several days. It has been said that he met with the CIA director himself, who visited Cairo for this purpose and then accompanied him to the United States, where he was subjected to numerous tests, including the use of a lie detector.

A few days later 'Isam returned to Cairo, but this time to turn state's evidence. After he completed the necessary procedures with the Egyptian security services regarding all necessary matters, such as records and contacts with the organization's members, and so on, he was arrested with them, but was promised that the bill of indictment would not include him and that he would turn state's evidence. The Egyptian security organs had rejected the investigation conducted by CIA elements and decided to conduct the investigation of such an important case themselves.

The Egyptian security organs knew of the organization's activities and had indications that it included a number of military men or people who had military and intelligence experience in the past. All they needed was the names. 'Isam volunteered to give both names and details. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Congratulates New Cypriot President

NC281920 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following cable to the new Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou today, congratulating him on his election and the beginning of his term in office:

"It is my pleasure to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as president and your assumption of your official duties. I wish you success in the service of your country.

"I am confident that the friendship and cooperation between our countries will steadily grow, both to the benefit of our peoples and that of international peace and security."

Ghali Returns to Cairo From OAU Meeting

NC281923 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Addis Ababa this afternoon. He had led Egypt's delegation to the 47th OAU ministerial session, which concluded its work in Addis Ababa this morning. Upon his arrival, Ghali said that he will submit a detailed report on the meeting and the recommendations issued at the meeting to President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Receives Report

NC291057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a report from Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on the OAU ministerial session which concluded in Addis Ababa yesterday.

In a statement after the meeting, Minister Ghali termed the African session an important one in terms of the full support expressed by the African delegations for the Palestinian popular uprising. He referred in this respect to the resolutions passed by the ministerial session supporting the Palestinian popular revolt and condemning the repressive policy pursued by the Israeli Government. He noted the full support of leaders, peoples, and political organizations of Africa for the Palestinian people's struggle to enjoy their right to self-determination.

Al-Khuli on Committee's Support for Uprising

JN271920 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] In a telephone contact with our radio, the well-known Egyptian writer and journalist Lutfi al-Khuli announced that he is the secretary general and not the chairman of the Egyptian National Comittee for Supporting the Palestinian Uprising [al-lajnah al-wataniyah al-misriyah li da'm al-intifadah al-filastiniyah].

He said the committee has a collective chairmanship including all the leaders of the Egyptian parties, including the ruling National Democratic Party. He added that the committee meets periodically at the headquarters of Egyptian parties and that it also includes all the trade unions, professional organizations, artists, and others.

Al-Khuli also said the committee supports the Palestinian cause as embodied by the PLO, upholds the demands of the Unified National Leadership in the occupied territory, and regards the issue as a national cause that is not related to partisan differences.

Al-Khuli said political support for the uprising is based on two points: protecting the Palestinian people through international forces, and ending the occupation with the aim of establishing an independent state under the PLO. He added that 1 million Arab citizens, including 1,200 Palestinian deportees, will cross the border carrying food supplies to the Palestinians and flowers to the democratic forces in Israel, which stand by the Palestinian people's uprising to end the occupation.

In this regard, Al-Khuli asserted that the committee's move is the first peaceful Arab move since 1948. He said that contacts are under way with all Arab parties and forces to muster support for the uprising.

AL-AKHBAR Parallels Israel, South Africa

JN292103 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Feb 88 p 5

[Editorial: "When Racist Policies Are Identical"]

[Text] It is no coincidence that while Israel pursues its barbaric repressive operations against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the world witnesses similar operations in South Africa at the hands of a white minority government, which forcibly controls millions of the native people in the same way and for the same goal.

The cooperation and the similarity between both racist governments in Tel Aviv and Pretoria is very well known by the entire international community. This prompted the UN General Assembly a few years ago to issue its famed resolution considering Zionism as one form of racial discrimination. Despite the hue and cry and the protests by Israel and those who support it on this resolution, the Israeli leaders have been emphasizing the soundness of this resolution daily. Israel and South Africa adopt the same policy. They also exchange expertise and aid on how to repress the people by force to keep them under their control.

It is also no coincidence that the superpower that offers Israel the bulk of its military and economic aid and protects it from international condemnation and sanctions, no matter how many crimes it commits in the territories it occupies, and no matter how many raids it carries out against its neighbors, is the same country that prevents the imposition of any serious sanctions against the Pretoria government, despite all the havoc that its Armed Forces wreak in southern African and independent neighboring countries.

Israel sought to possess a nuclear bomb to threaten and terrorize its neighbors out of its belief that this bomb will protect it against any danger on the day the people in the occupied territories and any Arab country rise to liberate these territories. The Pretoria government has resorted to the same method to achieve the same objectives.

All the countries in the world are aware of these facts. We hope these countries will not be content with verbal condemnations of the two racist countries' crimes and will act at the proper time to end these crimes.

Tunisian Information Minister Arrives 27 Feb

NC271457 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Tunisian Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah arrived in Cairo from Jeddah this afternoon on a 4-day official visit. This is the first visit to Egypt by a Tunisian official since the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Following his arrival, the Tunisian official said that he carries with him a message of love and appreciation from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the president, government, and people of Egypt.

The Tunisian minister said during his stay in Cairo he will sign a protocol for media cooperation between the two countries. He will also attend the inauguration of the first TAP office in Cairo, which is also the first TAP office to be opened in the Arab world outside of Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Received by Sidqi

NC272033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Tunisian Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah in his office this evening. The Tunisian official conveyed a message to Prime Minister Sidqi from his Tunisian counterpart Hedi Baccouche. During the meeting, also attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, they discussed ways of increasing cooperation in various spheres, particularly in the information field.

Meets With Mubarak

NC280917 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Tunisian Information Minister Dr Abdelwahab Abdallah in the presence of Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif at the Presidential Office this morning.

Dr Abdallah had arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 3-day visit, the first state visit by a Tunisian official since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Following his meeting with President Mubarak today, the Tunisian information minister said he had conveyed to President Mubarak the sentiments of admiration and love of his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Expressing pleasure at the visit following the resumption of bilateral relations, the Tunisian minister disclosed that an information cooperation agreement will be signed today. The agreement, he added, deals with cooperation in the fields of radio, television, newspapers, and with the exchange of expertise by the two countries' news agencies. He noted that it has been decided to open a Tunisian national news agency office in Cairo, the first office to be opened by Tunis in an Arab country in many years.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak had entrusted the Tunisian information minister with a message for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, dealing with bilateral relations, developments in the Arab region, and all the region's moves in general.

Al-Sharif said that the agreement, which is due to be signed today, will include an executive program for information officials of both countries, to exchange visits and hold meetings to follow up, assess, and develop their work.

Departs 1 Mar

NC012143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1748 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Tunisian Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah left Cairo tonight following a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. The Tunisian minister also signed a protocol for media cooperation between Egypt and Tunisia. The protocol aims at boosting the exchange of media and cultural expertise and programs between the two countries. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif accompanied his Tunisian counterpart to the airport and bade him farewell.

PDRY Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

NC011151 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—A PDRY delegation, led by Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry 'Abdallah 'Abdallah Hamman, arrived in Cairo this morning on a 1-week visit. This is the first visit by a PDRY official following the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

While in Cairo, Ambassador Hamman will convey a message from PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The delegation will also start contacts and begin preparations and arrangements for opening the PDRY Embassy in Cairo.

Mubarak Receives Bahraini Amir's Message

NC281144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT
28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a written message from Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah this morning, dealing with the distinguished relations between the two countries. Bahraini Ambassador Muhammad Hamad al-Mahamid conveyed the message during an audience with the president today.

After the meeting, the Bahraini ambassador said that senior officials from both countries are expected to exchange visits shortly.

Burkinabe Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC281925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT
28 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—Jean Marc Palm, Burkina Faso's minister of external relations, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official visit. During the visit, which will last several days, Palm will hand a written message from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore to President Husni Mubarak.

Upon his arrival, the Burkinabe minister said that the visit is in the framework of the traditionally strong ties between his country and Egypt. He pointed out that Egypt and Burkina Faso are cooperating in health and education in particular.

Gives Message to Mubarak

NC291015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT
29 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Burkinabe President Blaise Campaore dealing with bilateral relations. This was noted in a statement by Jean Marc Palm, Burkina Faso's minister of external relations, following his meeting with President Mubarak today. He added that their discussion dealt with bilateral relations and a review of the situation in Burkina Faso.

Departs 1 Mar

NC011040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Jean Marc Palm, Burkinabe minister of external relations, left Cairo this morning following a 3-day visit, during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore.

He also held talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on the possibilities of sending health, agricultural and educational experts to Burkina Faso, so it could benefit from Egyptian expertise in these fields.

Briefs

Outgoing Burundian Envoy

Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Burundi's ambassador to Cairo, Zacharie Banyiyezako, and bade him farewell at the conclusion of his tour as his country's envoy to Egypt. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 1 Mar 88 NC*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Gorbachev Afghan Message
LD011601 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1548 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Mar (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received the envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who conveyed to him a message from the Soviet leader relating to the Afghan question. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Jallud Receives Visiting Delegations 1 Mar

Meets Bulgaria's Zhivkov
LD011854 Tripoli JANA in English 1710 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning the member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Member of the State's Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria "Zhivko Zhivkov" and his accompanying delegation who are taking part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the declaration of the establishment of people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

Meets SFRY's Kurpejovic
LD011909 Tripoli JANA in English 1714 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Mirrikh [March] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning the president of the Federal Committee of the Yugoslavian Federal Chamber "Omer Kurpejovic" and his accompanying delegation who came to great Jamahiriyah to participate with the Libyan Arab people in celebrating the 11th anniversary of the declaration of people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history.

Mauritania

Taya Receives French Emissary, Chirac Message
AB011053 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The head of state yesterday received His Excellency Fernand Wibaux, diplomatic adviser to the French Government and special emissary of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who arrived here yesterday for a visit that lasted a few hours. The meeting was held in the presence of Mohamed Ould Wada, personal undersecretary of the head of state, and His Excellency Jean Bellivier, the French ambassador to our country. After the meeting, Mr Wibaux stated that he presented the head of state with a message from the French prime minister.

Briefs

Soviet Fisheries Official Visits

Deh Ould Cheikh, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, today received the Soviet deputy minister of fish industry, who has been on a visit to our country for the past few days. After the meeting, the two ministers attended the opening of the proceedings of the 4th session of the joint Mauritanian-Soviet fisheries commission. On this occasion, speeches were exchanged by Deh Ould Cheikh and his Soviet guest. [Excerpts] [*Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Feb 88 LD*]

Morocco

Poland Signs Debt Rescheduling Agreement 1 Mar
LD011840 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Rabat 1 Mar (MAP)—Morocco-Poland: Agreement on the rescheduling of Poland's debt charges.

On Tuesday morning Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada and Polish Ambassador to Rabat Mieczyslaw Wojciechowski signed an agreement in Rabat rescheduling the debt charges payable by Poland in 1987/1988. The amount covered by this agreement is $5,644,828.63.

Sudan

Further on Egyptian Delegation's 1 Mar Visit

Talks 'Successful'
JN011519 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA)—The Sudanese side headed by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Egyptian side headed by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks at noon today in the Presidential Palace.

The prime minister and the Egyptian president held a closed meeting before the start of the talks.

In a press statement following the talks, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the meeting was successful and friendly. He said both sides discussed the implementation of the brotherhood charter and reviewed the bilateral relations which should be promoted within the framework of the charter in the interest of both countries.

Mubarak Meets Party Leaders

JN012103 Khartoum SUNA in English
1800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March, 1 (SUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received here today a number of Sudanese parties' leaders, among them leader of the Islamic National Front Dr Hasan al-Turabi and secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud.

Al-Turabi, in a press statement following the meeting, said he had reviewed with Mubarak a number of international and regional issues in addition to bilateral relations and the situation in the western part of the country.

The leader of the Islamic National Front said the meeting has stressed the necessity of cooperation between the two countries for lessening the tension in the area and adopting strategies for achieving the rights of the people of the Nile Valley.

Al-Turabi, described the point of views as identical, adding that the encounter has also touched on the Afghan question and the Islamic and Arab role in solving it.

Nuqud said, in a statement after the meeting, that the Sudanese-Egyptian relations were discussed and that he had outlined to President Mubarak the Sudan Communist Party's [SCP] viewpoints regarding a number of issues. The SCP is against the joint military pact, the integration agreement and all the measures taken behind the Sudanese people, Nuqud told President Mubarak.

The SCP secretary general said the SCP believes that Sudanese-Egyptian bonds demand economic or military agreements reached through the constitutional institutions. He said Egypt has a role in the Sudan and added that the Egyptian ruling party should establish relations with all the Sudanese political forces through joint committees to promote bilateral cooperational.

Nuqud pointed out that President Mubarak and himself had agreed that any claim by any Sudanese party to speak for Egypt in Sudan is detrimental to the two countries' relations. President Mubarak had also agreed to scrap the Joint Defense Pact signed on the demand of Sudan, Nuqud said. He added that he had asked President Mubarak to pay personal attention to the development of Wadi Halfa area, northern Sudan, especially the construction of its port.

Nuqud described as candid his talks with President Mubarak and said he was offered an invitation to visit Egypt.

Mubarak News Conference

NC012001 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that Egypt and Sudan are cooperating in order to bring about a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan issue because war cannot resolve any problem.

In a news conference he held at the Presidential Palace in Khartoum prior to his departure from there for Cairo following a visit which lasted several hours, President Mubarak said: We in Egypt are interested in Sudan's security because Sudan has historically had special relations with Egypt, as Egypt has had special relations with Sudan. He added that it is not possible for any leader in either country to separate the two peoples under any circumstances.

President Mubarak added: I am convinced that my Sudanese brothers, Ahmad al-Mirghani and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and the rest of the Sudanese leaders, are aware of this. He noted that the ongoing cooperation between Egypt and sudan will increase with the aim of resolving allof the two countries' problems, foremost of which is the vitally important food issue.

President Mubarak said: I am very happy to have visited Khartoum which I have known very well for a long time. I have brothers and friends in Sudan. I also have great love and appreciation for all aspects of Sudan.

President Husni Mubarak added: I have not visited Sudan since 1985, but despite the passage of this long period, I have always felt that I was among brothers and friends. He noted: during this period, I used to meet with brothers from fraternal Sudan in Egypt, which also is their country.

His excellency added: I met today with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, Brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and the leaders of the various Sudanese political parties. We discussed the situation in the south, international developments that interest us, and numerous current regional developments, particularly the Gulf war and the Middle East issue. We are all convinced of the need to attain a peaceful solution, in keeping with the Fes summit conference resolutions. A crisis cannot be solved by means of war. The war between the United States and Vietnam, which ended in dialogue and negotiations in Paris, is an example of this. The United States

is a great power with huge capabilities while Vietnam is a small country. However, war cannot possibly resolve an issue, although it might put a peace process in motion.

Answering a question regarding Egypt's role in achieving Sudanese-Ethiopian reconciliation, President Husni Mubarak said: We discussed this vital issue, which is of concern to both Sudan and Egypt. Sudan's security is of great interest to us. We are making efforts in this respect. We also will make further efforts with our brothers in Ethiopia in order to narrow the gap between the two sides and attain a solution to this crisis by peaceful means, since such means are the best methods. We also want to attain a solution so that the two peoples may live in peace and Sudan may live under one flag. they are all brothers, whether they live in the north, south, east, and west. There is no difference between this and that group.

Responding to another question about the joint defense pact, President Mubarak said: The existence of a Joint Defense Pact is not important. What concerns us in the end, as I have already said, is Sudanese stability. We are doing our utmost and we will continue to exert efforts until we reach a satisfactory solution to the crisis in the south.

Responding to a question on the Brotherhood Charter, President Mubarak said: It is not important to sign charters, but to follow a practical course. What really matters is for us to be practical and realistic, and to understand that the economic, agricultural, industrial, and all other fields of bilateral cooperation benefits both peoples. Unless the man in the street in both countries feels there is economic, agricultural, and industrial cooperation, he will no longer have faith in such charters.

President Mubarak added: Studies have been made in both countries, and meetings at the prime minister level will be held soon to discuss the practical ways to be pursued to that effect. We hope we will be able to fulfill our goals and tirelessly work hand-in-hand toward that end.

Answering a question on the new U.S. initiative and an international conference, President Mubarak said that the Egyptian initiative he had presented to the U.S. Administration and to the European countries during his recent tour of these countries was aimed at ending the injustice being perpetrated against the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

He added: The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza is a result of psychological pressure, because the people there feel deprived of their rights, feel like fifth- or tenth-class citizens, and feel that no one helps them to solve their problems. The people of the West Bank and Gaza reacted to this, and their response ultimately escalated into an uprising.

President Mubarak added: We do not deal with the uprising like the others do—by issuing statements. Issuing statements is the easiest thing to do. We found it more beneficial to use the uprising to give impetus to the peace process. Therefore, I presented my proposals to the countries I was visiting, calling for halting all violence for a period of 6 months, taking into account the difference between this [the Palestinian] and that [the Israeli] violence. I also was aware of the various criticisms generated in this respect. However, we had to say something to the international public so that we could maintain the tempo of our cause, gain this public opinion on our side, end the injustice against the people of the West Bank and Gaza, and encourage the termination of violence.

Thus I called for halting the construction of settlements in the occupied territories, granting the Palestinian people their full rights, establishing an international system to ensure the safety of the Palestinian people through UN observers, and immediately discussing a comprehensive solution to the issue by convening an international conference attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Speaking on the Palestinian problem and the U.S. and Israeli elections, President Mubarak said that there is no need to link the solution of the Palestinian problem with any elections. All of us have to work, to lift the injustice that weighs upon the youths of Gaza and the West Bank.

President Mubarak said that he has reservations with regard to the U.S. proposals, which he will not make public pending a further elaboration of the current ideas. Mubarak noted that Mr Shultz is still pursuing his contacts with the parties concerned, adding that he is meeting His Majesty King Husayn today to discuss what can be done.

Mubarak asserted: We have to tread carefully on certain points which rouse the suspicions of some Arab countries, such as Jordan, Palestine, and Syria. The idea that an international conference is the best means of bringing about a just and overall peace must be accepted so as to reassure all the parties participating in the peace process.

President Mubarak said: We are trying to utilize the Palestinian uprising as a means to give momentum to the search for a comprehensive and fair solution.

Answering a question by a TASS correspondent, Mubarak said that the Soviet Union is backing this line and wants to see the achievement of a just and overall peace. We are exchanging ideas and opinions with the Soviet Union regarding what concerns an overall solution and an international conference. Other Arab countries are doing the same.

Mubarak added: The whole world is backing an international conference. The Americans are aware of this, as are the Israelis, except for Shamir, who is the only one who does not want to believe this.

At the conclusion of his news conference, Mubarak answered a question by saying: Sudan is not the only country with problems. Even great countries can have internal and external troubles. What matters is that we should all cooperate and work together. This is true for political forces within Sudan, between Sudan and its neighbors, and between Sudan and Egypt. We should work together to solve our problems. Sudan is a vast country which needs massive efforts. Even big countries face hazards. We understand and are ready to help when help is needed.

Sudanese Information Minister Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm introduced Mubarak to the journalists by saying: We welcome His Excellency President Husni Mubarak not as a leader of Egypt alone, but as leader of the Arab world. Egypt, with the sure hands of President Mubarak at the helm, is an asset to all the Arabs. Our people will listen, with their hearts and souls, to what President Mubarak has to say.

Delegation Departs

JN011806 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1732 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA)—His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him left the country at 1800 local time today at the end of an 8-hour visit.

During the visit, President Mubarak met with the chairman and members of the State Council, the prime minister, the leader of the Islamic National Front, the secretary of the Sudanese Communist Party, a representative of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the leaders of the southern parties.

He was seen off by the chairman and members of the State Council as well as the prime minister.

Parties Discuss Forming National Government

JN011253 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1036 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (SUNA)—Moves aimed at solving the dispute between the two coalition parties—Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist—have begun once again with a view toward forming a national government. The leadership of the Al-Ummah Party and the National Islamic Front [NIF], which is led by Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, held a meeting. Contacts are also underway to hold a similar meeting between the Democratic Unionist Party and the NIF.

This information was mentioned today by the daily AL-AYYAM, which explained that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi proposed to Dr Al-Turabi during their meeting that a national accord government be formed in which the parties would be represented in accordance with the percentage of their representation in the Constituent Assembly, adding that other party leaders would also participate in this government.

The paper noted that one of the proposals presented was that Muhammad 'Uthamn al-Mirghani would assume the chairmanship of the State Council, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the premiership, and Dr al-Turabi the Constituent Assembly chairmanship. However, the details would be handled after approving the principle.

Information released today referred to the failure of the Al-Ummah and Democratic Unionist Parties coordination committee, which examines the controversial issues between the two parties.

Interior Minister on Situation in Darfur Region

JN012105 Khartoum SUNA in English
1805 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 1, SUNA—Minister of Interior Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn described as "a conflict between two states moved inside the Sudan and not an armed robbery", the state of insecurity now prevailing in Darfur Region, western Sudan.

The minister of interior, who was replying to an urgent question in the Constituent Assembly-parliament, said speaking about armed looting away from the foreign conflict—in an apparent reference to Libyan-Chadian conflict—is meaningless.

The minister uncovered that tens of weapons-loaded trucks and vehicles belonging to Ibn Oumar forces, one of the Chadian opposition armed factions, are roaming Darfur area.

He added that 13 vehicles belonging to the Chadian Government's troops had crossed borders deep inside the Sudanese territories and kept on asking citizens about areas of presence of Libyan forces and the site of Saq al-Na'am project, a project being implemented by the Libyans in Darfur, and also the place of the Sudanese Armed Forces garrisons.

The minister of interior further said that (?some) Chadian troops were seen carrying weapons and ammunitions on horses backs.

He added that armed gangs in uniform of Chadian troops were roaming Kabakabia area, far western Sudan, using rockets and RPG machineguns. [sentence as received]

The minister also said Ibn 'Oumar forces had established their own camps at Umm Jam area, far western Sudan, and five land-cruiser vehicles equipped with artillery belonging to Ibn 'Oumar forces have attacked positions inside the Chadian borders and returned back to the Sudanese territory.

Armed Forces Kill 200 Rebels in Attack

EA292038 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Soldiers of the Armed Forces were able (?at this time) yesterday to strike—in a heroic way that makes the homeland proud of them—at the outlaws in and around the (Kondokoro) Camp, south of Magiri. The camp was completely destroyed; 200 outlaws were killed, and many were wounded in the attack. [passage omitted]

Al-Banna Meets 'Revolutionary Committees' Group

JN291809 Khartoum SUNA in English 1713 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 29 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Idris al-Banna received here today a delegation from the Sudanese Revolutionary Committees Movement (pro-Libya) which handed him the resolution of the first congress of the Revolutionary Committees Movement held here recently.

The encounter also reviewed the current political situation and ways of securing the internal front.

Draft Loan Agreement With Kuwait Signed 27 Feb

JN281914 Khartoum SUNA in English 1716 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (SUNA)—Sudan is to receive a loan of an estimated 5.25 million dinars from the Kuwaiti Economic and Social Development Fund, according to a draft agreement signed by the Sudanese Government and the fund here yesterday.

A source at the planning department in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning said the loan will be allocated for the implementation of Al-Fashir, (Western Sudan) water project.

The soft loan is repayable within 25 years with a grace period of 5 years and an interest of 1.5 percent.

The draft agreement was signed by the planning undersecretary for the Sudanese side and the chairman of the fund's delegation for the Kuwaiti side.

Economic Meetings With Morocco Begin 27 Feb

JN272007 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 27 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 27 (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Moroccan joint ministerial committee has started its meetings here Saturday to discuss the economic and commercial relations and the exchange of experience between the two countries.

The Sudanese side was headed by Minister of Commerce Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, while the Moroccan side was headed by Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry 'Abdallah Azmani.

Dr Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil in his address before the opening session praised the Sudanese-Moroccan relations and the Moroccan assistance to Sudan.

He expressed his hope for continuation of this assistance in the fields of trading exchange, culture and other fields.

The minister explained the steps adopted by the government to create suitable [word indistinct] to the joint investment between Sudan and Morocco in the field of agriculture and industry.

The Moroccan minister confirmed the necessity of utilization of what he described as strong relations between the two countries to realize integration, investment and development.

He said his country is intending to implement a large number of investment projects in the Sudan.

The minister called for the promotion of economic cooperation between Sudan and Morocco

The opening session was attended by Minister of Industry Mubarak al-Fadil al-Muhdi and the Moroccan ambassador to Sudan.

The meeting assigned two committees, one to deal with cultural affairs and the other with commerce and economic affairs.

The committee will conclude sessions next Tuesday.

Agreement Signed

JN011247 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 1 (SUNA)—The Sudan and Morocco yesterday signed and agreement on trade and industrial cooperation. The agreement include the exchange of commodities in the fields of agriculture, industry, air and sea transportation.

This is a step to be followed by more in the avenue of cooperation between the two countries in all fields, said commerce Minister Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil in a statement yesterday.

The Moroccan Commerce Minister Mr 'Abdallah Azmani who signed for his government has expressed Morocco's keenness to further develop bilateral cooperation with the Sudan, pointing that his country would contribute to development in the Sudan.

Burkinabe, Basotho Foreign Ministers Arrive

JN2819381 Khartoum SUNA in English 1714 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 28 (SUNA)—Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso and Lesotho arrived, here Sunday, coming from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where they attended the 47th session of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The two ministers, while here, will sign agreements between the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and their countries.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Addresses Central Committee Session

LD2700001 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1613 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at a meeting of the Destourian Socialist Party Central Committee on 26 February; place not given—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, it pleases me today to open the work of the Central Committee in its first meeting after the decisive change which took place in Tunisia on 7 November and a few months before the party's extraordinary conference.

I was keen on making sure that this meeting measures up to the great event and up to the level of the critical historic stage through which the country is passing. Therefore, I decided this conference should not be held until the opportunity had been given to the party bases to regain the initiative and talk with utmost frankness and justice about the affairs of the party. Wide consultations were organized at all party levels and concentrated meetings were held within the framework of the concerned committees which prepared the draft working documents you have before you today.

I am optimistic that the results of this session and its recommendations and measures will undoubtedly support the party's interaction with the new era and will enable it to overcome the shortcomings and negative aspects which have stuck to it along the years and made it, at some stages, into a subservient structure and an easy ride instead of, according to the correct principles, being a leading structure directing the march of the country and a firm test of the will and intention to serve the country.

This deterioration would never have happened had it not been for the weakness which occurred within its structures and the obstruction of vital movements in its veins as a result of autocracy, consecrating individual worship, and mutilating political work when some people considered joining the party only as a means to an end. The result was out-of-tune work with the party machine just spinning its wheels.

In the past few years before 7 November, our country was in a state of deterioration, which weakened state institutions and made political life barren and rigid and obstructed our ability to look into the future so that development opportunities were diminished, confidence disappeared, and despair became widespread, in addition to the negative effect this situation had on Tunisia's image and status in international circles.

Therefore, we shouldered our complete responsibility in response to our call for national duty and according to our commitment to preserve the state and its institutions. We rescued the country as a service to it and because of our love for it and in order to protect its interests.

The response of all the Tunisians to this event was unanimous. The change which took place on 7 November is not a mere change of persons or appearances. It is a change which will restore initiative and creativity to our people, (?old) and young. The change indicates the firm establishment of our constitutional institutions which will never be weak or rigid, and will open the horizons for a developed democratic political life.

Brothers and sisters, the eyes of all Tunisians, not only the Destourians, are looking today for the resolutions and recommendations that will result from our meeting today, after the restrictions that were obstructing the party's movement, trivializing its effects, and reducing its supporters are lifted. This party, heir to ancient reformation progressive movements that go back beyond the colonialist era, is today, and since its independence, has been shouldering the responsibility of governing the country. It is responsible for reforming the situation and developing itself to become truly qualified to implement the program and principles included in the 7 November statement.

The change we made and the deep popular response to it are a valuable opportunity for the party to restore its credibility and to continue its historic mission. After the change we invited the Destourians to radically and objectively assess the party's past and relentlessly investigate the negative aspects, which accumulated over the years, in response to the 7 November statement and in recognition of the party's merits. We asked them to do so in spite of the problems and shortcomings which were caused to the nation, and with confidence in the party's ability to progress and develop after the restrictions had been lifted and it had been supplied with many of the conditions of renewal in order to continue to play its leading role and to widen the horizons of correct partisan work.

I am confident that we will take huge steps in this direction by virtue of the sincerity of the Destourians, who did not despair in the past, and who tried by all means to save whatever could be saved. Sometimes they succeeded in overcoming difficulties, and with their patience and faith they preserved the structure of the party from collapse.

This partisan change, if it is to be correctly materialized, will benefit both the party and the country equally. However, the correct change can only be achieved by adopting the decisions necessary to consolidate the serious and responsible dialogue within the party structures, and when the party mission is enriched, its means of action reformed, its leading role restored, its base expanded, its abilities renewed, and it becomes able to develop along with reality and respond to the aspirations of the new generations of Tunisians in the best possible way. The sincere activists, whether they belong to the pioneer generation or to the independence generation, hope for this.

Change is not an easy matter. It requires a collection of conditions, first of all democracy in partisan work. The establishment of this practice is the party's backbone of its entire structure and at all levels of responsibility. It is the consecration of the principle of respecting majority opinion, a course which the Destourians should adhere to in their work and behavior, because it is the thing that guarantees credibility, success, and the renewal of their mission. It is also the shield that protects against all kinds of falsehoods, opportunism, and aggressiveness. The Destourians are called on to deal in a civilized way with each other and with all political and social organizations and groups.

Conditions must change so that they include the necessity of opening up to and listening to the youth. The young born before and after independence now constitute about three-quarters of the population, and are full of abilities, hopes, and readiness to sacrifice and give to the nation. They have legitimate aspirations. Let us give the young the opportunity to fulfill these aspirations, for which their souls long, and let the party open its arms to the young so they may reveal what they have and shoulder their share of duties in building a new Tunisia.

Only through this we can guarantee the impregnability of the nation and the unity of its sons. This way our party will live in this era, as it did before the bad symptoms occurred.

The important issues, which cannot be dealt with without reconsidering our means of work and practice, include the rehabilitation of sincere activists, those who left the party, or were forced to leave the party, because they were committed to its principles. The loyalty of our party to its good men, who sacrificed to rid the country of colonialism, or contributed to the establishment of the new state, demands that we honor them and give them credit for the great service they gave.

Also among the requirements for change is that the party open up to all active and objective forces. History is a witness to the fact that in the past the party's forces stemmed basically from the variety of its founders' and members' tendencies, the diversity of their educations, and their agreement on a national objective. As the party turned in the past to all good forces and potential, it should now turn to all those who have good intentions, to all those who believe in the 7 November declaration, and to those who desire to act within it, to bring their efforts together to achieve its aims. Therefore, this party becomes the ideal of the people's democratic gathering. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, our party, which had the honor to realize independence and build a modern state, is committed today to support the state, bolster institutions, the people's republican line and democratic leanings by enabling institutions to exercise their duties independently and with integrity, and providing more opportunities for peoples' participation so the state will be, in fact, for all Tunisians.

The Destourians, thanks to their loyalty, abilities, and beliefs in the new democratic line, are capable of achieving the position stipulated by their past and their militant asset on the basis of democracy and the people's sovereignty, as called for by the Constitution, which guarantees liberties and mass and individual rights. These political tendencies represent a convenient basis for continuing the objective of development, which was undermined by colonialism, and which was reactivated by the people following the independence.

In addition to the establishment of a modern state, the objective of development is to set up a modern society characterized by justice, solidarity, and perseverance to overcome all forms tendencies, whether tribal, regional, or class levels. Thus, these civilized achievements would constitute a basis for the democratic struggle which took us time to establish, but which still needs more efforts, consolidation, patience, and strong beliefs.

Ladies and gentlemen, our concern to stick to our Islamic and Arab identity stems from our adherence to the dimensions that complement our national dimensions. At the forefront of these dimensions is Tunisia's place and role in the Maghreb region, as dictated by the vision of our foreign policy. Our country is now, as it has been throughout its long history, committed to all the Maghreb countries. It is also committed to the need to establish the great Maghreb through firm stages based on the exchange and complementation of interests and on effective solidarity, as it should be among brothers. [applause]

Likewise, our country desires to contribute toward joint Arab action, as it aims at consolidating Islamic solidarity, while committing itself to what is dictated to it through its African and Mediterranean membership.

Our country also desires to carry out the principles of nonalignment and to deal with all friendly states on the basis of mutual interest and respect.

Ladies and gentlemen, stemming from our belief in the abilities of our party to shoulder its responsibilities, past and present responsibilities, we are fully aware of the need to revise the party organization, to revise its structure and the way it works—a revision which should be serious and thorough. This prerequisite revision is a positive sign and an indication of originality, endorsed by any party which aspires to consolidate its well-being. In this historic phase, our party's principal duty is to strengthen and safeguard the tendencies of 7 November and to protect them from the plots and schemes either of those who try to divert these tendencies from their original goals, or of those who try to ridicule, distort, contain, or make them void of their positive meaning.

Change is irreversible, and there is no room in this party for opportunists of any kind or for those whose behavior is suspect. Thus the party remains the party of sincere and fair strugglers who have no other purpose than to benefit the country and the people. [applause]

The conditions through which the country is going do not allow indifference, indiscipline, or laxity. This hour is a serious one, the road is rough, and the responsibility is grave. The defense of the homeland and the raising of its prestige to confront the challenges and overcome the difficulties in the path of its progress and prosperity is the responsibility of all the Tunisians, the Destourians in particular. We are in dire need of hard work and toil. To achieve the maximum, all capabilities must converge and [word indistinct] vital ideas so every Tunisian may contribute within the context of an organized and wide gathering for the country's development. This should be an individual as well as a collective responsibility. The road must be blocked for those who seek objectives other than the national interests.

Brothers and sisters, we inherited a heavy load whose negative aspects have accumulated over many years in all fields without exception. And although we are certain that a period of almost 4 months is not enough to do away with its harm, we were successful in removing some of it, and we are determined to continue to work and redouble our efforts to remove the biggest number of these negative aspects. [applause]

In this we depend on the understanding of all Tunisians and on their readiness to help us in this national task. The party has a basic role in this context.

Let the Destourians turn to work and toil at the party level and outside it, and change the concept, the method of action, and language to suit the change brought about on 7 November. Let the country and its interests be above any consideration. Today there is no room for hatred, narrow calculations, or wagering on individuals [applause] and there is room only for competition in providing the greatest services to the homeland and to the party, which is above all a pioneering and distinguished tool whose sole objective is to serve the homeland and its citizens.

Vigilance and determination, in addition to work and toil, are among the most positive duties. Vigilance and consideration of what we want and do, in what we have achieved, and what we want to achieve. Let us beware in particular of doubt and of casting doubt, and let us tend change away from doubt and casting doubt. Let us secure conditions for continuation and continuity. This responsibility rests on the shoulder of all those who put the country in the deepest folds of their hearts, prove that the love of the homeland is an act of faith, and believe that the value of man lies in his attachment to principles and fulfilling his obligations, those obligations that were expressed by Tunisians everywhere in complete spontaneity on 7 November.

We pledged to those masses to achieve the principles on which change is based and who promise us with their sound [word indistinct] response to be with us for the sake of Tunisia, its strength and progress. Today we renew to them the pledge to continue to work along the same road and urge them anew to be with us, with themselves, with Tunisia.

For all this, I appeal to you while you are preparing the party apparatus, to accompany the change and to consider reforming it, to study carefully the documents presented to you and to [word indistinct] everything liable to consolidate the entity of the party, its status, activity, and its positive role in building the present and future of Tunisia, in accordance with the directions outlined by the 7 November statement. In this you should be guided only by good work for the benefit of the party and the homeland. And whosoever does deeds of righteousness, being a believer, shall fear neither wrong nor injustice. [Koranic verse] God spoke the truth. Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Ben Ali Changes Party Name

LD2720300 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 88

[tExt] The Central Committee ended its work this evening. The Central Committee met yesterday and today. The meeting centered on the desire for change and, responding to the preoccupations of youth and women, deepening the party's pioneering role.

At the Republic palace in Carthage this evening, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali supervised the final session of the Central Committee which included the reading of the general resolution and the speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. We now listen to the address by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, members of the Central Committee, it pleases me to welcome you again and to congratulate both you and myself on the important work which the Central Committee has successfully achieved during this session. This meeting is considered rightly a decisive turning point, not only for the party but also for Tunisia who modern history since the start of this century has been coupled with the history of this party, whether during struggle and liberation, or the building of the state and the march of comprehensive development. [applause]

I followed with utmost interest the work of this session and the frank discussion which took place during the session. It was dominated by enthusiasm and was characterized by high patriotic spirit and committed party discipline. I can only express my complete satisfaction at the decisive results achieved by this session. They will give a new impetus and an ambitious starting point for the party members in working within the context of clarity, openness, democracy, and dedication in serving the nation. [applause]

These are basic conditions which should not be absent from party activity after today. And here we are today beginning a new era in the history of our party which will enable us to embrace all the vital forces and those with sincere determination, to work within its ranks in accordance with the new orientations.

Here, in particular, are the real dimensions of the Central Committee's decision to change the party's name to the Destourian Democratic Rally [Al-Tajamm'u al-Dusturi al-Dimoqrati] to be open to all citizens who wish to join its structures, to work at the same level and within the context of equality for sound principles, programs, and orientations in accordance with the clear principles of action approved by the majority after consultation and dialogue, and thus binding on all.

It is important today to turn with faith and confidence to the implementation of these resolutions, with honesty and responsibility, without any distortion or interpretation. Because, as you no doubt know, organizations and structures, irrespective of the confidence of their visualization and the wisdom of their organizations, their effectiveness, and consequently their success and radiance, continue to depend on the enthusiasm and qualities of the men who supervise their implementation, and on the extent of their success in winning the respect, appreciation, and harmony of the popular base.

This is a splendid experience and it is a decisive new wager, and all Democratic Destourians should from today work seriously to win it, so that our rally may remain the main motivating force in the country and the hope of successive generations over the years.

Brothers and sisters, now we can say that we have turned a new page in the history of our party, and that we have changed its statute, structures, and the ways of its operation in light of the comprehensive change witnessed by the country. What is required from all of us, once again, is to turn to work and toil. We turn to all Tunisians without exception with this appeal and remind them that the new era which we began together is the era of hard work and sacrifice, dictated by our love for the homeland and the call of duty.

We shall now begin preparations for the extraordinary congress to which we will submit the results of all the changes recommended by the Central Committee for evaluation. Forward! And may God assist us. Long live Tunisia! Long live the Destourian Democratic Rally! And say: Work and God will surely see your work, and his messenger, and the believers. God spoke the truth. Peace and God's blessing and mercy be upon you. [end recording]

Baccouche Comments on Visit to Morocco, Talks

LD0103344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche returned to Tunis this evening from Marrakech at the end of a 2-day official visit to Morocco. The visit was marked in particular by a meeting between the prime minister and King Hassan II during which the former handed the Moroccan monarch a message from His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Hedi Baccouche also held talks with his Moroccan counterpart, Dr Azzedine Laraki.

The prime minister declared, after his meeting with King Hassan II, that the message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealt with bilateral relations which have been given a great impetus since the visit of Dr Azzedine Laraki, Moroccan prime minister, to Tunisia. He added that the message also dealt with relations among the Maghreb countries, especially after the visits of President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Tunisia. These two visits, he went on to say, focused on bilateral relations and the future of the Maghreb countries.

Hedi Baccouche pointed out that these visits have confirmed that the building of the Maghreb has become a pressing necessity and that collective work is needed to overcome and diminate all obstacles. He added that his meeting with King Hassan II was an opportunity that enabled him to listen to his opinions which open up horizons and make one optimistic about the possibility of overcoming the obstacles and thus embody the historical solidarity and concord.

Kuwait

Amir Urges UN Action on Gulf Cities War

LD020947 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] United Nations, March 2 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has urged the Security Council to play a "major role" in the current escalation of the war of cities between Iraq and Iran. Acting as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the amir made his appeal in letters sent to the presidents of the council's 15 state members.

"Confronted with this dangerous escalation, we hope the Council will play a major role," H.H. said.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad A. Abu al-Hasan met Tuesday with the Council president for March, Ambassador Dragoslav Pejic of Yugoslavia, to whom he handed the amir's letter.

He was to hand the same message later in the day to the representatives of the 14 other Council members.

Papers Blame Superpowers

LD021008 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 2 (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday blamed the superpowers for the continuation of the 'cities war' between Iraq and Iran due to their slackness in implementing Security Council Resolution 598 on an immediate ceasefire to the Gulf war.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said the resumption of the cities war between Iraq and Iran proves that the superpowers want the Gulf war to continue. It added that instead of taking advantage of the relative tranquillity in the Gulf and holding serious consultations to put real pressure on Tehran to accept Resolution 598, the superpowers pre-occupied themselves with drafting agreements on regional issues that could be postponed.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, meanwhile, stressed that Iran is the party that started the cities war and it is the one that pushed the area to "the circle of fire."

Daily AL-QABAS for its part said that it is not surprising to see Iraq firing long-range missiles on Tehran particularly that it came after the Iranian regime continued shelling Iraqi residential areas, ignoring Iraq's warnings, threats and peace calls.

The paper asked how could Iraq remain silent and Resolution 598 is still ineffective and others, meaning the superpowers, are delaying issuance of another international resolution to impose sanctions on Iran for its refusal to implement Resolution 598. [sentence as received]

The paper noted that the superpowers' slackness and irresponsibility toward the war "will not lead to a comprehensive solution" to the Gulf conflict but it will further complicate the situation.

The paper said "we had hoped that these Iraqi missiles were directed against the Zionists in occupied Palestine, but Tehran delayed such action by ignoring peace initiatives, thus putting itself in the list of Arab enemies."

Defense Minister Receives Egyptian General

LD011642 Kuwait KUNA in English 1436 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA)—Defence Minister, Acting Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad received here today Egyptian Major General Ahmed Hilmi on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Hilmi relayed a message to Nawwaf from Defence Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Abu Ghazalah and the two sides reviewed scopes of bilateral military cooperation. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Defence Undersecretary Faysal al-Dawud and Egyptian ambassador here Sa'id Rif'at.

Soviet Scientific Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD011304 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA)—A delegation from the Soviet Academy of Sciences Tuesday arrives here to explore future cooperation possibilities between Kuwait and the Soviet Union in the environment and petroleum fields.

The delegation, headed by director of the Soviet Petrochemicals Institute Prof. Nikolay Blati, is scheduled to hold talks with officials in various Kuwaiti scientific institutions.

The four-day visit comes within the framework of scientific cooperation between the Soviet Science Academy and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Polish Economic Official Comments on Visit

LD011842 Kuwait KUNA in English 1540 GMT 1 Mar 88

[By Shamil Khairy]

[Text] Kuwait, 1 March (KUNA)—Poland intends to step up imports from Kuwait in the near future specially in oil byproducts, Chairman of the Polish Chamber of Commerce Tados Zulkowsky told KUNA in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

"In the past there were difficulties in our country for imports from countries including Kuwait but in the future we will be ready to buy more crude oil products from Kuwait," he said shortly before heading back home concluding an official visit to the country.

Zulkowsky arrived here last Saturday leading a trade delegation and met with Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal al-Khalid and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saghir.

In his interview with KUNA, Zulkowsky attributed the drop in his country's imports from Kuwait to Poland's indebtedness to the Western nations which dictated a drop in his country's imports in favour of increased exports.

According to official statistics, Kuwait exports to Poland in 1975, 1976 and 1977 stood at KD [Kuwaiti dinars] 9.5, KD 12.7 and KD 16.7 respectively in 1978, 1979 and 1980 [words indistinct] 4.7, 1.1 and a few thousand dinars in 1980.

Compared to this, Kuwait's average imports from Poland during the period (?1975)-1980 stood at around KD 6 million but in 1984 dropped to about 4 million dinars. This indicates that the balance of trade was in favour of Kuwait until 1977 before it reversed to Poland's favour.

Zulkowsky described his talks with the Kuwaiti officials as highly positive covering avenues of promoting bilateral trade and joint projects in which Poland can have a share.

"I was pleased to have a very positive response from the Kuwaiti Chamber (of Commerce and Industry) president to [word indistinct] what can be done on both sides to develop our bilateral trade relations", he told KUNA, adding "I have found a great deal of understanding to our mutual plan of developing our bilateral relations."

He said he invited a chamber delegation to visit Poland and participate in the Polish [words indistinct] 60th anniversary of the Polish Chamber and see the opportunities to export more Kuwaiti products other than oil.

In this connection he said Poland has a lot to offer in building pipelines, water [word indistinct], road building and projects with highly skilled labour and engineers.

And in return Kuwaiti traders can get the opportunity to export more to Poland, he said, noting that Kuwaiti trading organizations are offering transit facilities or re-export of goods, an endeavour which he thought could be developed.

But Zulkowsky was optimistic that in the not too distant future, Poland could expand its imports from the Arab countries and the Gulf states when burden of the nine billion dollar debts on his country are completely or partially settled.

Presently Poland is not in a position to import from the Arab countries in view of the lack of hard currency to finance these imports "but when we are offered credit facilities we will do more business," he said.

Speaking about Poland's relations with Israel and its stance towards the Middle East crisis and the Iraq-Iran war, Zulkowsky ruled out any possibility of restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel as long as Israel remained occupying Arab territories.

"I do not know there has been any agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Israel," he said, adding anything said in that connection is groundless.

Zulkowsky reiterated his country's support for the Arab states in their conflict with Israel and deeply regretted the war between Iraq and Iran which broke in September of 1980 over borders and territorial waters.

He said though small in area and population, Poland will do its utmost to bring about peace in the Middle East and in the Gulf in cooperation with other peace-loving nations.

And on the Iraq-Iran war, he said Warsaw is ready to join hands with any friendly country seeking an end to the war, emphasising that Poland "deeply regrets the situation in the Gulf."

PDRY

Al-Bid Has Gallbladder Surgery, Returns Home

EA012042 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, returned to Aden this evening from Moscow following a private visit to the USSR where he had a successful surgical operation to remove his gallbladder.

He was met at the airport by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Political Bureau and Central Committee members; the ministers and Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU and Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Yemen Arab Republic

Vice President Receives PRC Delegation 1 Mar

JN012040 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, and Standing Committee member, received this morning Li Ziqi, CPC Central Committee member and secretary of the Gansu Provincial Chinese Communist Party Committee in the PRC and his accompanying delegation. The PRC delegation is currently on a visit to our country at the invitation of the General People's Congress. The PRC official conveyed greetings from PRC state and party officials to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to the brother vice president.

Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi asked the PRC delegation to convey President Salih's greetings to the PRC leaders.

The two sides discussed during the meeting the cordial relations which exist between the two friendly countries and ways of promoting them.

UK's David Mellor Arrives in Sanaa 1 Mar

JN012055 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] David Mellor, state minister for foreign affairs at the British Foreign Office, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country of several days. In a statement to SABA', Mellor said his visit to our country is within the context of the ongoing dialogue between the United Kingdom and Middle East countries. He added he will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral relations.

A representative from the Foreign Ministry's protocol department and the UK ambassador in Sanaa were present at the airport to welcome him.

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Paris 1 Mar

JN012050 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, planning minister, head of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member, left for Paris this morning at the head of our country's delegation to attend the meetings of the Yemeni-French committee for joint cooperation to be held in Paris 2-6 March. [passage omitted]

President Orders Missile Code-Named 'Al-Husayn'

JN011233 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, March. 1, INA—President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the 650 km-range Iraqi missile, which has begun to hit Tehran as from yesterday evening, be code-named "Al-Husayn missile." INA learnt this today.

President, 'Arafat Discuss Missile Attacks

JN011932 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn telephoned PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon.

Yasir 'Arafat had contacted Baghdad by telephone yesterday evening and requested that his greetings be conveyed to his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. During the telephone call, 'Arafat also expressed the militant Palestinian people's solidarity with their fraternal Arab people of Iraq in their valiant defense of their land, sovereignty, and dignity. He also voiced his condemnation of the Iranian regime's shelling of Baghdad, Basra, and other Iraqi cities.

In his telephone conversation with 'Arafat, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn voiced his appreciation of the fraternal sentiments expressed by 'Arafat and said that these sentiments confirm the unity of the Arab destiny. The president added: If the militant Palestinian people who are living under the tyrannical Zionist occupation are waging a holy war against the occupiers using stones, your brethren in Iraq, who are defending the Arab homeland's eastern flank, are capable of deterring the enemies using missiles and all other effective weapons.

We are willing to do so to show these enemies the Arabs' unlimited ability to wage a holy war and to prove to them that the Arabs' love for right and peace is not prompted by weakness, but rather by a good conscience and a great legacy. The president once again saluted the Palestinian strugglers in their legitimate struggle to restore their land and regain their legitimate rights.

Minister on 'Gigantic Strategic Capabilities'

JN011304 Baghdad INA in English 1218 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 1, INA—Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, said Iraq possesses gigantic strategic capabilities to destroy Tehran, the nest and racket of evil, vice and wickedness toward Iraqis and the Arab nation.

In a speech at the Party-Cadre Preparation School, Mr. Jasim said that strikes made by the Iraqi missiles constituted an important turning point in the life of Iraqis and the course of war.

He added that Iraq which had the capability of manufacturing long-range missiles today has a great power that could score fatal blows to the Iranian aggressive and covetous regime.

Throughout last night and today, 13 highly destructive Iraqi missiles were fired into the nest of crime in Tehran.

The Iraqi information minister described the Iraqi missiles as a new miracle by Iraq's honest men, a miracle that signified phenomena of great Iraqi character in challenging, standing fast and achieving victory over enemies.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Missiles Halted "for 2 Hours"

JN011307 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—INA has learned from an authorized source that President Saddam Husayn has ordered a halt of missiles attacks on Tehran for 2 hours between 1000 and 1200 today [0700 and 0900 GMT] in response to an appeal by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, currently on a visit to Tehran.

The source said the president also ordered Iraqi planes to keep out of Iranian airspace for the same reason. It added that the president's order to halt missile attacks on Tehran today is in appreciation for the relations of friendship between Iraq and Turkey and allows Ozal to leave Iran and return to his country safely.

The source stressed that the Iranian authorities did not take into consideration the security of its guest and did not respect the traditions of hospitality when their missiles and artillery shelled Iraqi cities, including the dear capital, Baghdad.

The authorized source said that Iran ignited the war of cities on the same day the Turkish prime minister arrived in Tehran. The source added that the Iranians knew full well Iraq would respond to their reckless actions and crimes. It said Iraq is exercising its natural right to reply to the Iranian aggression.

Tehran Hit 'for 7th Time'

JN011432 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1353 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian regime ignited the war and insists on continuing the war. It overlooks the international

community's will, which is represented by UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Iranian regime is the only party that will be held responsible for the consequences resulting from its pursuit of this aggressive course of action. If the Iranian rulers had an iota of a sense of responsibility toward their people, they would have spared their people the loss of blood and money.

However, these rulers have acted illogically, failing to heed all ethical norms and any sense of responsibility which governs the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed. Hence, they continued to commit acts of aggression against our country and against our unarmed citizens in our dear countries.

Because of this, the Iraqis are bound to ward off harm against their homeland and their cities. Therefore, for the 7th time, our gigantic missile force fired one Al-Husayn missile at 1630 [1330 GMT] today. The missile accurately pounded its target in Tehran. God be praised for these bountiful offerings. We also pray to Almighty God to protect our leader who is the symbol of our pride.

Glory to all those who were responsible for thinking out, planning, producing, and carrying out these strikes, especially our men in the military industries. They are courageous holy warriros who embody their nation's genious and the efficiency of the Iraqi individual. Glory to our heroic missile force, too. O God, You bestowed these victories on us. Grant us more of these victories. You are the best to grant victories.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

Planes Hit Hamadan, Zanjan

JN011504 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian regime started the war and has been insisting on continuing it. This regime has continued to ignore the international community's will regarding the need to establish peace. This will was represented by the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

This regime perpetrated ugly crimes through its attacks on purely residential areas using missiles and long-range artillery. Because of these crimes, and to exercise our legitimate right to defend our sovereignty and our citizens' security, and to put an end to this aggression, our heroic Air Force carried out the following two heroic missions:

1. At 1545 [1245 GMT] today, a destructive hit was dealt to Hamadan.

2. At 1710 today a destructive hit was dealt to the city of Zanjan.

Having carried out these tasks, all of our aircraft returned safely and victoriously to base, in God's care and protection.

[Dated] 1 March 1988.

8th Missile Strike Noted

JN011726 Bagdhad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1652 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] With the help of God and through the continuous efforts of our brave men in the military industries and our gigantic missile force, a destructive strike with Al-Husayn missiles was delivered for the 8th time against the heads of the Khomeyniites in their capital, Tehran, at 1935 [1635 GMT] today. Our missiles pounded their targets very accurately.

Let the Tehran rulers know that today nothing will spare them from the torture of God and the violent attacks of Iraq. We will not give them a chance to take a breath or show their vileness once again. We will follow them like their shadow and rob them of their sleep. We will not let fear depart from their rancor-filled hearts. O God, we thank you for your bountiful blessings. Move ahead toward fresh victories, O glorious Iraqis.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

Communique No 3,043

JN011821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,043 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued to carry out combat activities last night and today. They inflicted the following losses on the aggressors:

1. Destroying one machinegun and burning one enemy vehicle in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

2. Killing two scoundrels, destroying two infantry positions, and blowing up one ammunition dump in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Destroying one ammunition dump and burning three vehicles in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Killing two enemy personnel and destroying two observation posts in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Four scoundrels were killed, one vehicle and two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The criminal enemy today used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the cities of Basra, Al-Zubayr, Al-Qurnah, and the village of Qal'at Dizah. The enemy shelling martyred a number of civilians, including a number of women and children, and wounded other civilians, including a number of women and children. The shelling also damaged a number of houses. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 March 1988

9th Missile Strike Made

JN011903 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In exercise of our right, our missile force has carried out the ninth strike. With God's help, one of the Al-Husayn missiles was fired on Tehran at 2109 today [1809 GMT]. Another missile strike was delivered to the city at 2130 today.

Thus, facts prove the Iranian rulers are the losers and the way out of their impasse lies in using the opportunity given to them by the international community. In other words, they should accept the UN Security Council resolution in accordance with its operative paragraphs. However, persistence in aggression will lead to nothing but more catastrophes and defeats for them.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN011939 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1927 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2111 [1811 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian regime fired one of its missiles on Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential quarter, martyring several civilians, including several women and children; wounding several others, also including women and children; and demolishing and damaging several houses, shops, and cars.

The insistence on this criminal course gives Iraq every right before international public opinion to continue striking the dens of the criminals with the same force and effectiveness that the world at large has come to know during last night and today.

We ask God to have mercy on our martyrs and to have them rest in paradise, and we wish speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

Aircraft Raid Qazvin, Rasht

JN012044 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2025 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] With God's help, the following has been achieved:

1. Our rapacious hawks penetrated deep inside the northernmost parts of Iran, reaching a distance 450 km from our international borders, to pound the city of Qazvin at 2100 [18700 GMT] today.

2. At 2135 today, our planes were also in the northermost parts of Iran to pound with their projectiles their targets in the city of Rasht. Having carried out these two heroic tasks, the hawks returned safely and victoriously to base. Blessed be our Air Force—command, eagles, and other ranks. God be praised for his obvious victory.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

Baghdad Hit Again

JN012119 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2103 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 1 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2305 [2005 GMT] today, the Iranian regime fired one of its missiles at the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area. As a result, a number of our civilians were martyred and others were wounded. A number of women and children were among the martyred and wounded. A number of houses and shops were demolished and damaged.

We ask mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and swift recovery for our wounded. This criminal act affirms the evil nature of the regime of charlatans and prompts us to more revenge and severe punishment, which we will carry out.

[Dated] 1 March 1988

10th Strike Launched

JN020617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0531 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have accepted all good offices made by official and popular international circles to achieve peace. However, the Iranian regime has ridiculed these efforts. We have also accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598 openly and officially. However, they have attacked this resolution openly and officially and acted against its essence.

We have warned them against attacking residential areas in our country, and explained to them the consequences of their crimes, clearly and without ambiguity. However, instead of stopping their crimes they have expanded them. This is an expression of their hatred of life and rancorous and evil intentions against our people, an attempt to place obstacles before international efforts to achieve peace, and particularly to prevent the UN Security Council from adopting a fair resolution against the party that rejects peace.

In light of this, what is the choice, Iraqis, for us, other than defending our territory, sovereignty, and our citizens' lives and security? In implementation of this legitimate right, our heroic missile force carried out the 10th strike on the city of Tehran with the Al-Husayn missile. The first strike was dealt at 0014 [2114 GMT] and the second at 0256 [2356 GMT]. Thus, the Iranian regime should fear God in its peoples, relinquish the policy of aggression, and accept peace in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution's operative clauses. This regime will only reap defeats on all battlefields. It will also face the wrath of God and people. God's wrath is very strong.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Missile Hits Baghdad 2 Mar

JN020637 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0620 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0543 today [0243 GMT], the criminal Iranian regime fired one of its missiles at the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area. As a result, a number of our citizens, including a number of women and children, were martyred, and several others were wounded, also including a number of women and children. A number of houses, shops, and cars were damaged.

At the same time, we ask God to have mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and swift recovery for our wounded. We stress to the whole world that such crimes will urge us to deal more destructive blows to the terrorist Iranian regime in a manner which it will never be able to confront.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Missile Fired at Qom

JN020925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0916 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—At 1145 [0845 GMT] today Iraq fired an Al-Husayn long-range missile at the city of Qom, the center of charlatanism.

Statement Issued on Qom Attack

JN021009 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0912 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are at your service, O great leader. This is the way one should deal with the enemies and you are an example that should be followed by everyone. Here we are, O Iraqi people, the founder of civilization, the creator of history, and the builder of glory. We are at your service O Arab nation, the holder of God's messages, the owner of high values, and the struggler for the sake of freedom and justice throughout history.

Today, we have proved we are the righteous sons of those great grandfathers and that through our struggle and sweat we pave the road of freedom, progress, and peace. Of every drop of our blood which watered the homeland's soil, we make an eternal light that guides people on the right course. The severe punishment of the enemies of our country was an expression of loyalty to all that is principled, sacred, and noble.

We inflicted severe punishment on the enemies of our country because they violated God's instructions and premeditatedly directed the fires of treachery and evil against the densely populated residential areas in our dear cities, in an attempt to destroy houses of worship, citizens' houses, and markets. They have expressed their criminal actions by killing women and innocent children. The Iranian rulers would have been able to avoid such crimes and to save themselves from Iraq's devastating reply if they had accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with its operative clauses.

Doesn't goodness mean the prevalence of peace and the freedom of every people to live freely on their homeland, and to lead their own life? Doesn't goodness mean to spare people's efforts and resources to develop their lives and to enrich them instead of exploiting them to carry out destruction?

However, the rulers of Iran ignored all this and insisted on madness at the expense of reason. They lent their ears to the whispers of Zionism, instead of listening to their peoples and caring for their tragedies. The rulers of Iran, however, were motivated by ambitions and inspired by their policy of creating chaos and destruction, and imposing their backward regime on others. What people in the world will accept their land to be occupied and to have a foreign regime imposed on them? So, how can we, the Iraqis—who were the first to establish a state, aspire to freedom, and struggle for freedom throughout the centuries—accept this? Therefore, let the backward rulers of Iran receive the blows of those who are in the right and the courageous.

Saddam Husayn's Iraq, which calls for peace from a position of strength and ability, knows how to defend its land and citizens. It has all the power to deter aggressors. With the help of God and with the efforts of the zealous men of the military industrialization sector, the 11th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was dealt, htis time to the city of Qom. At 1145 [0845 GMT] today one of our missiles was fired at the center of Khomeyniite charlatanism to confirm what we had said; namely, that every single den of the Iranian rulers is within the reach of Iraq's strong arm, so the rulers of Iran will face the destruction to which they aspire.

O Lord, You did not do that in vain. O Lord, let Your enemies and the enemies of the nation of the Koran taste more of the suffering of hellfire. O Lord, You give grace but You do not neglect. Praise be to You.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Second Missile Hits Qom

JN021129 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1048 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Proceeding from a sense of responsibility toward our people and as an expression of our country's ability to deal devastating blows, we have no choice but to prevent the Iranian regime from continuing its disgraceful and criminal actions against residential areas in our eternal capital, Baghdad, the city of Basra, and other Iraqi cities and villages.

Iraq, which has demonstrated its might, capability, and full supremacy over its enemies, has always advocated peace based on the principles governing its policies and defining relations with other states. Iraq's acceptance of mediation efforts and the international resolutions—particularly the UN Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which was Resolution 598—was an inevitable and natural result of our revolution's ideological approach, its policy that rejects war and calls for achieving cooperation among peoples, and whose foundations were clearly laid by the inspired leader, Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

We were not surprised, as our leadership said, by the Iranian regime's rejection of this resolution, because this regime has devoted itself to carrying out sedition and acts of sabotage in the whole world, and because it has also exploited all of its country's resources to continue the war against our country.

When that regime failed to harm our leadership and to impose its backward policy on our country through aggression on our border, it resorted to shelling purely residential areas. Whenever the international community found an opportunity to end the war that regime became more intransigent and expanded the scope of its aggression and crimes. In the face of this, it was necessary to deter that regime in the only way it understands. Consequently, our heoric missile force dealt the 12th strike with Al-Husayn missiles. At 1315 [1015 GMT] today one of our missiles was fired at the city of Qom, the center of Khomeyniite charlatanism, strongly pounding its targets.

As long as the rulers of Iran have not learned the lesson taught by the destruction inflicted on their country since the evening of 29 February to the present time, and as long as they have insisted on hitting our eternal capital, Baghdad, they must continuously bear the consequences for the sin they have committed. If they were truly loyal to their country, they would have accepted the Security Council resolution in all of its operative clauses, and their peoples would have benefited most from that resolution, which provides them with the opportunity to have a just peace. In any case, that is their criminal nature.

Let them receive retribution for what they have done and are doing. Blessed are all the efforts of our men in the military industrialization sector and in our missile force. Praise be to God for His victory

[Dated] 2 March 1988.

13th Strike Reported

JN021244 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1211 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The war we are waging would not have taken place if the Iranian regime did not have a racial, blind rancor against our people, especially since God has granted this people a unique leadership that embodies their principles and expresses their conscience, and since our people have made great achievements, which ignited the Iranian rulers' anti-Arab rancor and entrenched a common denominator between them and world Zionism regarding their actions against Iraq and its awakening.

As an expression of this hostile approach, the Iranian regime did not satisfy itself by attacking our borders, but by continuing to strike at strictly residential areas and to direct its missiles, long-range artillery, and rocket launchers against the mosques of God, children's schools, markets, coffeeshops, and houses.

Regardless of what it does or claims, the Iranian regime itself is the one responsible for once again igniting the cities war. If the Iranian regime had been fair to its people, their interests, and blood, it would have saved them from this unjustified war and accepted the fair UN Security Council resolution. This resolution was an opportunity for this regime to reconsider its mistakes and take care of the true interests of its peoples. In light of this stand and the repeated aggressions against our

safe cities, we had no choice but to put matters on the right course and to make the Iranian regime feel, through the rockets of right, what kind of power Iraq has. Iraq has not used this power for a considerable period of time, proceeding from its honorable principles.

The 13th strike was dealt with Al-Husayn missiles. At 1445 today [1145 GMT], one of our missiles was fired against the city of Tehran. The missile violently destroyed its targets. Blessed be the struggler men of the military industries for these wonderful achievements. Blessed be the brave men of our heroic missile force. March ahead to deal more painful strikes against our enemy and the enemy of God.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Air Force Raids Dezful, Karaj

JN0213291 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1312 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To continue the great efforts of our heroic missile force and our gigantic Air Force in pounding the dens of aggressors who insisted on the war, refused to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses, behaved contrary to the principles stipulated by the resolution, and carried out frequent attacks on our borders and bombarded our secure cities and villages, our Air Force carried out the following missions:

1. At 1354 [1054 GMT] today, our aircraft launched a destructive raid on the city of Dezful, pounding their targets in the city and setting them ablaze.

2. At 1410 [1110 GMT] today, our aircraft launched a destructive raid on targets in the city of Karaj, shattering their targets.

After carrying out these heroic missions, all of our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly in God's care and protection. Glory to our Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

Another Missile Hits Baghdad

JN0215401 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1516 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1646 [1346 GMT] today, the Zionist Iranian regime fired one of the missiles it obtained from the Arab nation's enemies and from those harboring grudges toward it and toward Iraq's renaissance. The missile hit a residential area of Baghdad, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women and children, demolishing a number of houses and shops, and damaging others.

While beseeching Almighty God to let paradise be the abode of our martyrs and to grant quick recovery to our wounded, we stress that these criminal practices will only increase our determination to continue to rap the rotten Khomeyniite heads until they admit the truth and seek peace.

[Dated] 2 March 1988

14th Strike on Tehran Noted

JN0215481 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1536 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—Iraq has carried out the 14th strike using an Al-Husayn missile at 1700 [1400 GMT] this afternoon. The missile pounded its targets in Tehran.

Ramadan Returns From YAR, UAE Visits

JN0111151 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad at dawn today following a 2-day visit to the YAR and the UAE.

In a statement upon arrival, Ramadan said he conveyed messages to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President Saddam Husayn, dealing with bilateral relations, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and the current Arab situation. He added that the two countries' leaders asked him to convey their greetings to President Saddam Husayn, and that they stressed the need to promote bilateral relations in all fields.

Ramadan said that Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan have expressed their admiration of the Iraqis' brave defense of their territory and sovereignty, and that they have reiterated their support for Iraq's defense of its territory and its sincere peaceful stands.

Ramadan pointed out he acquainted the two countries' leaders with the situation at the battlefronts, the strong Iraqi capabilities at the front, and the Iraqi Army's readiness to crush the Iranian aggressions and to implement the Iraqi Command's decision to decisively reply to the aggressors' crimes against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Peres Denies Consent to PLO Participation

TA011525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Addressing American Jewish leaders, Mr Peres denied consenting to entering negotiations with the PLO without 'Arafat. He also said that he does not demand the dismantling of settlements in the territories, but he would prefer a peace settlement enabling Jews and Arabs to live separately alongside each other.

Mr Peres noted that his proposals regarding an international conference have the support of the United States, Jordan, and Egypt. Such a conference would prevent coercion by foreign countries which could foil an agreement achieved through direct negotiations.

Peres Reiterates Denial

TA021133 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres today stated once again that the PLO is not a partner to negotiations because it has been shunning any possible solution. Speaking to the organization of Jewish war veterans, Peres said the Shultz plan must be accepted and noted that the road to peace goes through an international conference.

Frayj To Visit Jordan, Discuss U.S. Initiative

TA020611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilias Frayj says he will travel to Jordan in the next few days to find out the Jordanian position on the U.S. peace initiative and the Kingdom's relationship with the PLO. In an interview with reporter Steve Rodan, Frayj also said the Palestinian boycott of Shultz will not affect Palestinians from meeting any other Western dignitaries.

[Begin recording] [Frayj] This will not apply, and the reason is simple: When we meet next week with the Swedish foreign minister, he is coming for an exploratory visit, to listen. When the other foreign ministers—the Italian foreign minister, the Belgian foreign minister, the Greek foreign minister, even the British foreign minister or prime minister—came, they did not come with the peace plan in their pockets. Mr Shultz has a different status.

[Rodan] But there is a dispute between the PLO and Jordan over the next step in the negotiations. After all, Jordan reportedly said yesterday it did not want to be involved in a PLO delegation. The PLO has a delegation of its own. Does this dismiss the entire idea of a joint PLO-Jordanian delegation?

[Frayj] I heard this. I am not sure really about its authenticity. It did not come directly from the Jordanian radio or television, so I have to be careful about it. I am going to Jordan in a few days time and I will check about it.

[Rodan] Do you think Jordan has any role to play in the negotiations over the territories, if it is now obvious that the PLO has the final word?

[Frayj] The major elements for negotiations are the Palestinians and the Jordanians. We have one creed, we have one destiny, and we have mutual interests. And I think this will be resolved. It's not a problem. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Meeting Ends With 'No Resolutions'

TA011340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Today's session of the Inner Cabinet on the subject of the U.S. initiative ended a short while ago. As at the previous session, no resolutions were reached. The ministers are now waiting for the results of George Shultz' talks with King Husayn in London.

The prime minister and the vice prime minister briefed the Inner Cabinet on their talks with Secretary Shultz, while those present expounded again on their well-known attitudes to the Shultz initiative.

Leaders, Media Comment on U.S. Initiative

Sharon on 'Imposing Solutions'

TA011013 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 88 p A3

[Report by Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon addressed himself to the U.S. peace plan yesterday, saying: "It is absolutely impossible to arrive at a serious solution by imposing a solution, and the United States should be wary about imposing solutions. We have seen the catastrophic results reached by the Americans in the past, and the failures in Vietnam and in Iran are proof of them. Any imposition will bring about disaster.

The only solution is direct talks between Israel and the Arabs." Referring to reports that the United States intends to include PLO elements in the peace process, Ari'el Sharon said: "It is hard for me to imagine that the United States would do such a thing. In the Camp David Accords, the United States undertook not to hold talks with the PLO. If it does, this will only prove that agreements signed by the United States cannot be trusted. I am sorry to say that, considering that the United States is our greatest friend in the world."

Acceptance of Plan Urged

TA011327 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 88 p 13

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "A Hot Potato"]

[Text] A mood of failure, or at least heavy pessimism, will accompany the U.S. secretary of state upon his departure from Israel this morning. There is no justification for it. It need not be so. After all, the operative plan presented by Shultz definitely makes sense. Although it does not meet the full aspirations of all the sides, it suggests some kind of way out of the dead-locked status quo that has been going up in flames in the territories.

Did we say a mood of failure? You will not believe what caused it yet again: the deep argument between Shamir and Shultz over the international conference! After being shelved for a while, the question cropped up again in all its acuteness when Shultz set the date of the conference for 1 April.

During the dinner held at his official residence—seemingly a social occasion for which Shultz turned up wearing a red jacket and a black bow tie—Shamir realized that what was at stake was—never mind the name—an international conference with the participation of the five superpowers along the lines of the agreement reached last April in London by Peres and Husayn.

"They have once again tossed that hot potato into our laps," a friend of Shamir says bitterly. "Talking to Shamir about such a conference is tantamount to waving a red flag in his face. What did they think? That he would accept now, particularly on the eve of elections, what he categorically rejected a year ago?" Shamir rejected all the explanations that the conference would not have coercive powers and would merely be a framework that would allow Husayn to open talks about the interim settlement in May and about the final settlement in December.

Nevertheless, Shultz—who will confer with Husayn today in London—could not give up on the component in his structure dealing with an international aegis, opening, or event. The Americans tell the Israelis that if Husayn agrees to negotiations with Israel without a conference he will endanger his political and financial status in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia would strangle Jordan by slashing some of the $700 million in annual aid and two Syrian Army divisions would soon be posted along Jordan's border.

"This is not a cafeteria," Shultz said, "where you pick what you want. The menu is fixed, all the way from the first to the last course." It seems that Shamir, who did not want to deal with procedures but only with substance, may have been taunted by fate and ultimately found himself dealing with both.

Shultz may come back, and then again he may not. He may submit to us a written U.S. plan this week, and then again he may not. On the day of his departure, however, all the parties had better consider whether it would be advisable to give up on this plan. Were I an Arab of the territories I would grab the 3-year interim settlement (the autonomy) with both hands.

"Had the British offered us autonomy during the period of their mandate we would have accepted it without any hesitation," the late Moshe Dayan once told the Egyptian foreign minister, hinting that the autonomy actually was equivalent to half-independence. Indeed, would the Palestinians not be better off with a half a bird in the hand than a big dream in the bush? How many times will they repeat the same mistake?

We too must think hard before we sabotage Shultz' plan or cause Husayn to sabotage it by piling obstacles in its path. The plan is not perfect and even Shim'on Peres has reservations about it. For instance, Peres would like to know: What will be the fate of Jerusalem? Are we certain to have a satisfactory security line? To what extent will the promise not to return to the 1967 borders ultimately avoid becoming cosmetic border adjustments?

Reservations notwithstanding, this is the only feasible plan there is under the present circumstances. After all, although it includes a tight timetable, it provides for years of negotiations and discussions. At a rather early stage it would enable us to get the army out of Arab populated centers. The army would then return to a defensive deployment rather than engage in policing tasks and repression which detract from its deterrent power.

The failure of Shultz' plan would confront Israel with unprecedented external and internal difficulties, first and foremost, between us and the United States. Although Shultz went to very great lengths not to arouse Shamir's suspicions that the United States is pressuring him, if Shamir does not meet Shultz halfway, the U.S. attitude will be seriously affected. I will not speculate on how this would find its expression, but the speed with which Israel is losing ground in European public opinion is enough to gauge the difficulty in maintaining U.S. public support for our ruling by force over a population that does not want us.

I am told Shamir does not believe the United States will change its attitude. Still, our main problem is not the United States but a possible escalation of events in our own country. One had better bear in mind that the Arabs of the territories have not yet exploited their full potential. They can move on to using firearms, expand the economic boycott, and ultimately convert from the PLO to Hizballah. But even without going as far as that, all they need to maintain the flame of the uprising in the territories, and make our lives miserable, is to have 20 boys with 40 stones and 2 television cameras at any place every day.

If there is a failure, it will not be Shultz'. It will be the failure of those who live in Israel, both Arabs and Jews. Although Shim'on Peres may have sounded pathetic when he said in a closed forum this week that to a great extent 1988 resembles 1948 in that it will be the year in which the fate of the state of Israel will be decided, it would certainly be a terrible mistake if the lid were closed on Shultz's initiative.

AL-QUDS Views Shultz Message

TA011935 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Shultz' Statement"]

[Text] After realizing that the possibility of his meeting with a number of figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had not materialized, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz came to East Jerusalem and addressed a statement to Palestinians in which he talked about peace making, its difficulties, and its vital importance to the region's nations.

We do not contradict the U.S. secretary with regard to the importance of peace making and the need for peace for all the region's nations. At the same time, however, we believe that peace requires a series of elements that should be taken into consideration as foundations for the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region.

The first of these elements is to determine the parties to the conflict who are to participate in the peace process. When the U.S. secretary of state says that the participation of Palestinians is regarded as essential for the success of the peace process, he should specify the Palestinian party that represents the Palestinian people. When he talks about Israeli participation he is referring to the Israeli Government or anyone chosen by this government. The same applies to Jordan, Egypt, Syria, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Undoubtedly Shultz realizes that when the Palestinian people are prevented from their right to choose their representatives, this necessarily means selection of a Palestinian delegation outside the framework of the Palestinian people's wishes and hopes. The making of peace requires the participation of a Palestinian delegation that enjoys the confidence of the Palestinian people themselves, not the confidence of Israel, the United States, or others.

The right to self-determination is considered the main factor for peace making as far as the Palestinian people are concerned. Why does Shultz talk about active participation by the Palestinian people in talks that would determine their future without referring to their elementary and legitimate right to self-determination? Particularly when this right has become the mark separating nations capable, from those incapable, of bearing responsibilities.

As to negotiations, determining their framework and shape constitutes a central factor of the peace-making process. To talk about negotiations without specifying the framework means allowing matters to become subject to interpretations and justifications. If, as Shultz said, the region's peoples are in need of a political solution, why did he ignore the framework of the talks? Particularly when the major parties to the conflict, with the exception of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of course, support the convocation of a peace conference?

Regardless of its difficulty, peace making requires a real desire by all the parties to the conflict. It must be pointed out that the Palestinian nation is at the vanguard of nations calling for a peace that would ensure its national and human rights. Continuing to put forward vague and ambiguous phrases and expressions will not contribute to breaking the deadlock pervading the peace process, but on the contrary will aggravate the already complicated and confused situation. No party wishing to establish peace may ignore the essential elements for making peace, because to disregard these elements, or to talk about them without determining them, will lead only to further difficulties and complications that serve no one.

U.S. 'Blind Eye' Toward Peace

TA012036 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Shultz and the Stubborn Reality"]

[Text] At a time when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is continuing his shuttle trip in the region, and is expected to conclude it today when he departs for London to meet the Jordanian king, it is difficult not to be aware of the U.S. Administration's blind eye toward Israel. This bias is maintained while the U.S. does not pay the slightest attention to the daily suffering of Palestinians and attaches no value or consideration to Arab positions.

Despite awareness by the U.S. Administration of the peril stemming from the continuation of the status quo, it still submits to the influence of the Israeli mentality. This mentality incessantly turns its back on international appeals and continues its blackout of the outstanding facts and realities unleashed by the current events in the occupied territories since 80 days ago.

Thus Shultz reflects his government's position when he persists in using the word "Palestinians." In the American lexicon it means individuals who are ready to circumvent the PLO and be in harmony with rejected U.S. plans and programs.

Hence, as long as Shultz persists in ignoring the main address of Palestinians, peace will remain absent from the region and the fate of any U.S. step that does not consider the results of the new reality is inevitably a failure.

Palestinian Boycott Message to U.S. Defined

TA0118/17 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
27 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "U.S. Plans and Palestinian Principles"]

[Text] Palestinian notables did not respond yesterday to the invitation issued by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The nonresponse to this invitation served as a sign for the U.S. secretary. This was a clear message from the Palestinian people to the U.S. Administration of the firmness of the national Palestinian position regarding any moves aimed at ignoring the Palestinian people, their legitimate national rights, and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

It would be wrong to believe that the national Palestinian consensus only aims to register a position against the proposals carried by Shultz. Instead, it aims to reaffirm a unified Palestinian position against the official U.S. approach toward the Palestinian problem—the approach which continues to disregard the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Palestinians have always affirmed their readiness to engage in contacts and consultations and to deal realistically with serious peace plans provided that these plans are based on a series of national Palestinian principles. The foremost of these principles is that the Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied territories, are one nation whose unity is indivisible. Under no pretext can one talk about the inside and the outside with the language of separation, fragmentation, and division.

The second principle is that the Palestinian people, under their unified national leadership, have affirmed, continue to affirm, and will always affirm that any peace plan which ignores their legitimate rights and their legitimate sole representative, the PLO, will be rejected just like other plans that were floated and failed because they ignored these principles.

Although in the press statement the U.S. secretary of state delivered at the American Colony Hotel last evening he affirmed the obvious fact that Palestinian participation is considered essential for the success of the peace process, he did not refer to the Palestinian people and their representatives. The Palestinians are people who have rights and representatives. As long as the United States ignores these facts and persists on not dealing with the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the Palestinian people will continue to ignore such plans by the U.S. Administration.

They will continue to do so until the U.S. Administration realizes the futility of this approach and launches initiatives that include clear fundamentals about the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. At that time our people will listen to these initiatives and deal with them seriously.

Frayj Says Palestinians Must Have PLO Approval

TA0118/54 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Address by Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Frayj before members of the Labor Party's Sharet Institute on 1 March in English; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We should genuinely and sincerely and with open minds find a solution where both people can live in peace and security. I declare that Arabs and Jews are destined to live in this country forever and both people will continue to live in this country forever. And so what's the way out? The way out is to find peace. A negotiated peace which will provide each people peace with security, peace with freedom, and peace with equality.

Mr Shultz is in this area. Then he invited some individual persons from the West Bank and Gaza to meet with him. We did not meet with him. Why? He is here on an official peace mission, which I welcome, and I wish him success. But he has a political peace plan in his hand or his pocket, and he was talking to the government leaders in this area about it. In what capacity would I and others go to talk to him about? We are not authorized by the Palestinian people to do so. To go just to listen and shake hands and go out will not really produce any results.

Any Palestinian repres. ntatives to be invited for negotiations have to be approved by the PLO.

Polish Bank Branch To Increase Capital Balance

TA2815/16 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Feb 88 p 8

[Report by Arye Lavi]

[Text] Poland has decided to increase the capital of the PKO Bank [General Savings Bank] in Israel, the HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned. It seems that the Bank of Israel has not yet been notified of this decision.

The decision was made after many years during which Poland refrained from developing the local branch. During this time the bank sustained losses and its capital was depleted. It seems that the capital of the Polish bank will be increased by some $5 million.

Another decision affecting the bank is that its Israeli branch will be granted independent status. The local PKO Bank is currently subordinate to the French

branch, but it will soon be directly responsible to the mother company in Warsaw. These decisions have apparently been made in the context of recent developments in bilateral relations.

Jerzy Malec, president of the PKO Bank [name and title as published], is currently visiting Israel. He has met several Israeli bankers and informed them of the bank's intentions to grant independent status to the local branch. On Friday, Malec conferred with Asher Halperin, director general of the Israeli Bank Union, and asked him to organize a visit to Poland by a delegation of Israeli bankers.

PKO Bank has one branch on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv. The bank's main activity is financing trade between Israel and East European firms.

Leaders Comment on Calling Early Elections

Peres Voices 'Reservations'

TA01/1752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Razi Barqay also reports that tonight Peres expressed reservations about what he termed the hasty step of early elections. In a meeting with the Labor's Young Guard leaders he was urged to leave the government if the political negotiations fail. Peres replied that first of all, the political pr... ss must be fully exhausted. He accused the Likud of basing its moves on the assumption that Husayn will give Shultz a negative answer.

In the meeting, Peres expressed his shock at the phenomenon he has recently encountered of high school students supporting the idea of transfer.

Levi Favors Call 'Without Delay'

TA01/1632 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1530 GMT 1 March 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Construction and Housing Minister David Levi calls for disbanding the Knesset and immediate elections. He sharply attacked the actions of both partners in the Cabinet over the Shultz initiative. The Inner Cabinet meeting, which dealt with the Shultz initiative, did not reach any decisions. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

Jerusalem is awaiting the Shultz-Husayn meeting in London to see how the U.S. initiative is developing. In the meantime, the political skies in our region are darkening with election clouds.

At today's Inner Cabinet meeting David Levi attacked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the vice Prime Minister, and the entire Cabinet for the way it is dealing with the Shultz initiative. The Israeli position could be defined as yes and no, he says following briefings by Shamir and Peres. Does it not trouble you? Do you not see the dangers involved in a situation in which Israel does not have a defined stand on an issue dealing with its very existence and future? What should Secretary Shultz learn from this situation? We too are not doing our jobs, Levi told his colleagues.

Levi said that instead of considering the initiative and its implications, which contain all the possible dangers in a single package, we continue with the game of hindering each other as though nothing was really happening. Our behavior is irresponsible, and damaging the country. It hinders our ability to stand firm, harms the IDF, and creates confusion among the people, he said. Levi called on the ministers to draw the necessary conclusions, and hold elections without delay. There is no longer a basis for joint action.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also said he does not kid himself about the chances that the Alignment could convince the Likud or vice versa. Peres: If there is no other choice but to hold elections, it should be coordinated between the Likud and the Alignment. I call on the Likud not to surprise us, Peres said. We carried out the rotation agreement at the agreed date, he said.

Yitzhaq Shamir said the coalition agreement does not include a commitment to coordinate the election date. Rabin: The hour of political decision making is getting closer.

Earlier Shamir and Peres briefed the Inner Cabinet on the Shultz initiative in general terms. Shamir read from the draft proposal the secretary of state left behind. He reiterated that he opposes an international conference, early discussions on a permanent settlement, and sticks to the Camp David accords.

In the final analysis, Shamir and Peres are not calling for decisions to be taken. Decision making on a political and domestic level awaits George Shultz' return at the conclusion of his talks in Europe. The evaluation we heard in Jerusalem today is that the Knesset elections will be held in July.

Ministers' Views Detailed

TA01/2044 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Only if Jordan supports the U.S. peace plan will the prime minister take action to declare early elections. The above was reported this evening by the prime minister's office. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he has no objection to early elections. Alignment Caucus Leader Knesset Member Rafi Edri has approached Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu with the proposal that the Likud and the Alignment submit a joint bill on early elections.

At the Inner Cabinet session today, Minister David Levi severely criticized what he called the chaos that reigns in Inner Cabinet sessions. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports from the studio:

If King Husayn accepts Shultz' plan, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will take action toward holding early election. The above was stated by members of his staff. Early elections will be his collateral against the U.S. initiative, which he is rejecting. Shamir would then be able to tell Shultz: I have no authority to return territories in exchange for peace, and it is necessary to ask the people. Members of the prime minister's office confirmed this evening that the bill on early elections had been coordinated with the prime minister.

Shim'on Peres said today he has no objection to early elections.

[Begin recording] [Yoram Ronen] It seems that the move toward holding early elections is gaining momentum, with the Alignment mentioning May as the target date, while the Likud talks about July. Do you think that a compromise could be reached and elections would be held in June?

[Peres] I still do not know whether or not all those who talk about the issue truly mean it. I only think that it is necessary to observe two things carefully: First, that early elections will be the outcome of an agreement between the two large parties which had originally agreed on the establishment of the incumbent government for a 50-month term. I personally have no objection to holding early elections. Second, the elections must be held in conditions that will be equally fair to both parties rather than selecting some month during which the Likud thinks it will benefit because people will be going abroad or be on vacation. Elections must be founded on the principle of fairness [last word in English], honesty, and an agreement.

[Ronen] If you should reach an agreement with the Likud on elections in June, when mass vacationing has not yet started, would you regard this favorably?

[Peres] Possibly. We will discuss this with the Likud. Right now, based on what I have heard from Mr Shamir, he is suggesting July or August. I find neither month attractive.

[Ronen] Do you think that it would be possible to arrange for elections in 3 months?

[Peres] I think it could take even less time than that. Look at England, where elections are organized within a matter of weeks, at a lower cost, and with less effort and hatred. [end recording]

At the Inner Cabinet session today, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi severely criticized the prime minister and the other ministers against the backdrop of Shamir's refusal to hold a vote on the Shultz initiative. After the prime minister read out the details of the U.S. proposal, Minister Levi said: The media has already provided this information, but what did you tell Shultz, he asked Peres and Shamir?

I said I support Camp David; Shamir said I supported an international conference, said Peres. If that is the case, Levi concluded, then Israel is saying yes and no at one and the same time. In other words, Israel has no position on a matter involving its very existence and future—and this is happening in the height of the political process! It is impossible to go on like this, Levi said. The Cabinet and Inner Cabinet's functioning is really scandalous, sows confusion among the people, and has a detrimental effect on the IDF. Everything around us, in both the political and security spheres, is burning. Morale is declining, and yet we are continuing to bury our heads in the sand—all for the sake of adjourning from these meetings without arguments. Since there is no basis for a joint operation and agreement, Levi said, it is necessary to go to the polls.

Yitzhaq Rabin said: I admit the time has come to make a decision, but I do not believe we can reach a consensus. Shim'on Peres said: Everyone has his own opinion and I am not kidding myself that we could persuade each other. If there is no alternative but to hold early elections, I would like this to be coordinated between the Likud and the Alignment. I do not want the Likud to take us by surprise.

The prime minister said: The coalition agreement says nothing about an obligation to coordinate the election date. This evening, Shamir's associates told me that he is not dreaming of coordinating the election date with the Alignment. He will set that date for the time he finds most propitious.

Herut Members See Arens Succeeding Shamir

TA261737 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (SUPPLEMENT) in Hebrew 26 Feb 88 pp 6, 7

[Article by Eyal Ehrlich: "The Man of the Future is Arens"]

[Excerpts] Moshe Arens is seen by Herut's Central Committee [CC] members as the man most likely to succeed Yitzhaq Shamir as the movement's leader.

47 percent of CC members consider him their candidate for the movement's leadership, whereas David Levi enjoys the support of 27 percent; Ari'el Sharon lags behind with a mere 22 percent. This is the most prominent finding of a poll of 2,000 Herut CC members conducted by HA'ARETZ SUPPLEMENT. The questionnaire, which was sent to all CC members, was answered by 506 of them, or some 25 percent. In

statistical terms, this is a very broad cross-section able to reflect quite genuinely the CC members' views on personal questions and the ideological positions the questionnaire set out to check.

Other prominent findings are: Almost half the CC members favor a transfer as the way to solve the demographic problem in the territories. In contrast, most of them prefer a national unity government with the Alignment rather than a narrow-based government with Kahane's support; 70 percent of CC members object to having Eli'ezer Shostak continue as a Knesset member, and at least 40 percent object to having Mikha'el Reisser, Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, Mikha'el Deqel, and Me'ir Kohen-Avidor in the next Likud Knesset list. On the other hand, the poll shows three new candidates far more prominent than others vying for an admission ticket to the Knesset: Binyamin Netanyahu's candidacy enjoys the overwhelming support of 87 percent, who is followed by Binyamin Begin with 69 percent, and Tzahi Hanegbi with 50 percent.

Fourth on the list of new candidates is Eli Landau, the mayor of Herzliyya, with 34 percent; fifth is Mordekhay Tzipori with 30 percent; Re'uven Rivlin and Sha'ul 'Amor with 27 percent each are competing for the sixth spot.

Following is the verbatim text of the nine questions posed to the CC members and their answers. We added notes and interpretations to some of them.

Question No. 1: Whom will you elect as your candidate for leader of the Likud's list in the next Knesset: Yitzhaq Shamir, David Levi, or Ari'el Sharon?

(Note: The purpose of this question was to find out what would happen were David Levi and Ari'el Sharon to contest Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership prior to the next elections. We did not include Moshe Arens among the possible candidates because at this stage he derives most of his strength from the so-called "Shamir camp," and the public does not perceive him as challenging Shamir's leadership. Hence, we wanted to learn who would be Herut's leader in the upcoming election campaign.) The results:

Yitzhaq Shamir received the support of 326 CC members, which is 65 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire.

David Levi received the support of 102 CC members, or 20 percent.

Ari'el Sharon received the support of 73 CC members, or 15 percent.

Question No. 2: Whom will you favor as leader of the Likud's list in the next Knesset if Yitzhaq Shamir does not present his candidacy: David Levi, Moshe Arens, Ari'el Sharon, others (specify)...?

(Note: The purpose of this question was to find out whom CC members support as the movement's next leader. We included Moshe Arens, in addition to David Levi and Ari'el Sharon. We gave CC members the possibility of adding other candidates whose names we did not mention.) The results:

David Levi—137 votes, or 27 percent of those taking part in the poll.

Moshe Arens—235 votes, or 47 percent.

Ari'el Sharon—112 votes, or 22 percent.

CC members proposed six other candidates, the most prominent of which is Binyamin Netanyahu, who received 3 percent of the votes. This modest rate of support points to the mood prevailing among CC members which is amply reflected in the question referring to new candidates for the Knesset.

Question No. 3: Following is a list of all Herut Knesset members. Mark only those you do not want included in the next Knesset. [passage omitted]

By a process of elimination and by the little opposition they commanded, one may learn who the most popular Knesset members are:

Topping the list is Moshe Arens, with only seven CC members objecting to having him in the next Knesset.

Yitzhaq Shamir is the runner-up, with 14 CC members not wanting to see him in the next Knesset.

David Levi came in third, with 18 CC members objecting to having him in the next Knesset.

The next slots are taken by Ari'el Sharon with 10 opponents, Moshe Qatzav with 28, 'Uzi Landau with 32, and Dan Meridor and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar with 39 opponents (or 8 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire).

Among the ministers, Hayim Corfu has the highest number of opponents; 25 percent said he should not be in the Knesset. [passage with question No. 4 omitted]

Question No. 5: Were the demographic situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to worsen, would you be in favor of a transfer (of the Arab population outside the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el): Yes or No? The results:

This question was answered by 452 CC members, or 89 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire; 11 percent, therefore, chose not to reply to this question.

Some 49 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire object to a transfer, while 41 percent favor it. Among those answering this question, 55 percent object to a transfer and 45 percent favor it.

Question No. 6: If after the next elections the Likud is able to set up a narrow-based government with the support of Kahane's party, what would your position be: in favor of such a government, in favor of a national unity government, in favor of holding new elections, in favor of remaining in the opposition? This question was answered by 496 people. The results:

Some 75 percent opted for a national unity government, about 27 percent opted for a coalition with Kahane, approximately 11 percent opted for new elections, and some 7 percent opted for remaining in the opposition.

Question No. 7: Demands have been heard once again to mete out the death sentence to terrorists convicted of murdering Jews. What is your position: against; in favor; in favor, on condition that this punishment also be imposed on Jewish murderers (such as members of Jewish terrorist organizations)? This question was answered by 489 CC members. The results:

Some 392, or 80 of those taking part in the poll, replied "in favor."

About 80, or 16 percent, replied "against." Some 17 participants, or 4 percent, chose the third possibility, which favors giving the death penalty to Jewish murderers as well.

Question No. 8: What is your position regarding the expected merger with the Liberals: in favor or against?

(Note: As was the case on the eve of elections in the past, the question of "unifying the Likud" and merging Herut and the Liberal Party has cropped up again. According to the agreement between the two parties, the Liberals are initially supposed to be given safe slots in Herut's institutions and subsequently become gradually assimilated into the party. In practice, the merger is being delayed due to infighting in the Liberal Party. The purpose of this question was to check whether there is still support within Herut to the entire notion of "unifying the Likud.") This question was answered by 491 CC members. The results:

Some 371 CC members, or 76 percent of those who replied to the questionnaire, are in favor of the merger.

Some 120, or 24 percent, object to a merger.

Question No. 9: If the merger with the Liberals does not materialize, would you be in favor of reducing the Liberals' representation in the Likud's Knesset list?: Yes, I would be in favor of reducing their representation by four or more Knesset members; yes, I would be in favor of reducing their representation by three Knesset members or fewer; I would object to reducing their representation. This question was answered by 484 CC members. The results:

Some 226 CC members, or 55 percent of those replying to the questionnaire, opted for the first option, that of a considerable reduction in the number of Knesset seats allocated to the Liberal Party.

Some 157, or 32 percent, opted for the second possibility, that of a less drastic cut.

Some 61, or 13 percent, objected to reducing the representation of the Liberal Party.

The meaning of these answers is that there is strong pressure with Herut to reduce by at least four, or perhaps even more, the number of Knesset members representing the Liberal Party.

Regular Army Service in Territories Limited

TA020521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Regular Army soldiers will no longer serve in the territories for more than 40 consecutive days. The IDF General Staff made this decision in the wake of the torture affair in Nabulus. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the two stone throwers who were cruelly beaten will be prosecuted for throwing stones.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Retarded Gazan Beaten

TA010906 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 88 p 2

[Report from Gaza by Bradley Burston]

[Text] An investigation has been ordered into the beating of a retarded Arab by IDF troops here, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

According to witnesses, Faysal 'Umar al-Ashi, 21, was approached by several IDF soldiers as he left his home on Sunday morning. They began to beat him repeatedly and then drove him away in a jeep.

That night, Al-Ashi was discovered lying on a beach in southern Gaza, dazed and bleeding profusely from a head wound. He was hospitalized at Al-Shifa' Hospital suffering from a fractured skull and other injuries.

Dr. Hatim Abu Ghazal, head of the school for the mentally handicapped in which Al-Ashi studies, yesterday informed Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities in the territories of the incident.

Military sources in Gaza last night confirmed that an investigation into the case had been set in motion.

Wadi 'Ara Jews, Arabs Meet

TA281423 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 88 pp 8, 9

[Report by Eli Tavor]

[Excerpts] "The eve of catastrophe"—this is how the situation in Wadi 'Ara was described by leaders of regional Jewish and Arab villages in a meeting held in Kibbutz Mezer on Friday.

In this emergency meeting, attended by regional kibbutz secretaries, educators, and public figures in addition to heads of local Arab councils ranging from Umm al-Fahm to the village of Zalafa near Megiddo, all speakers expressed their apprehension about the developments in the region. These developments are seen as endangering the good neighborly relations between the Jewish and Arab villages as well as the freedom of traffic in Wadi 'Ara. [passage omitted]

The meeting adopted a series of operational decisions, including:

A. The establishment of a joint Jewish-Arab committee of the regional villages which will coordinate the handling of the security situation and the manifestations of violence in Wadi 'Ara.

B. The establishment of emergency centers in both Jewish and Arab settlements in the region. All complaints about manifestations of violence and incitement will be channeled to these centers. Joint Jewish-Arab guard units will be dispatched by the centers to handle these cases even before police are summoned to the site. This will be done, of course, in coordination and with the approval of the police. The emergency centers will also handle complaints about irregular acts by border policemen.

C. The holding within two weeks of a joint assembly of residents of the Jewish and Arab villages in the region. The assembly will call for peace and condemn radicals on both sides. There will also be mutual invitations for meetings among the residents of the Wadi 'Ara villages so as to strengthen neighborly relations.

It has been learned that RAKAH leaders, especially Knesset Member [MK] Tawfiq Tubi, are pushing to calm moods in the Arab villages in Wadi 'Ara, almost all of which are led by RAKAH members. RAKAH leaders fear that the nationalistic wave in the region may cause them to lose control in the Arab streets. So, for instance, they send their people to take down PLO flags hoisted on houses and to erase anti-Israeli slogans written on walls of houses.

RAKAH leaders are afraid of the "cancellation of the Green Line" between the Arab villages in Wadi 'Ara and Arab villages on the other side of the Green Line. They fear this may prompt the reinstatement of the military administration in the region.

The convention at Kibbutz Mezer was held upon a joint initiative of MK Ran Kohen and RAKAH people. It received the approval of the police in the hope that calm in the region will be imposed from the inside.

More Patrols in Wadi 'Ara

TA011336 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 March 88

[Text] Police are stepping up patrols along the Wadi 'Ara highway which links the coastal plain to the Yizra'el valley. This follows a number of incidents in which firebombs and stones were thrown at passing vehicles. The police spokesman has categorically denied a charge by local Arab leaders that border policemen have been harassing school pupils using the Wadi 'Ara road. The spokesman admitted, however, that one complaint in this regard had been submitted to the police.

A Hadera magistrate court has ordered the detention of seven Umm al-Fahm residents for 10 days on suspicion of engaging in hostile activities. The detainees are accused, among other things, of throwing a petrol bomb at a local police station, blocking roads with stones, and painting slogans and Palestinian colors on the walls of local schools and public buildings.

KAKH Rally in N. Jerusalem

TA011911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] KAKH members this evening held a rally on the situation in the territories in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood in north Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that three movement members were detained after violating the public order.

PLO Urges Paralyzing Services

TA012055 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The PLO today published new demands for the residents of the territories. They amount to an attempt to paralyze administrative systems in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is included in leaflet No 9 signed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising which was distributed in small quantities in East Jerusalem, but was widely publicized in the Arab media. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports:

[Begin Ya'ari videotape] Israeli sources said tonight if there is even a partial acceptance of the PLO demands, the services which the residents receive will be seriously impaired, with no possible alternatives to be found. The sources pointed out that the PLO's goal is to create

complete anarchy in the territories, and that the collapse of the local administrative system will render the residents' lives intolerable. We were given this assessment after the PLO leadership, following prolonged deliberations, opted for an extreme operative plan, instead of heeding the local activists' advice to take measured steps in areas that would not affect the local residents so severely.

Thus, instead of ordering resignations from only some sectors of the Civilian Administration, the PLO is trying to instruct all of nearly 20,000 government-employed Arabs to resign at once. The significance of this would be that they would lose their salaries and pension rights, without any practical recompense.

The PLO demands that all towns and rural council members also resign. Again, this step is very hard on those concerned, who are thus invited to give up their means of livelihood. The demand also involves the danger of paralyzing the services, from water supply down to garbage collection.

Despite the Military Government's edict ordering that all government-run schools in Judaea and Samaria be closed down, the PLO wants the 250,000 students to return to school for several hours every day, following the pattern set by the commercial strikes. Once again, the teachers are thus called upon to give up their wages and to disobey government orders. In fact, the PLO now wants education institutions to operate under the supervision of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, just like the merchants.

Confusion reigned tonight among those public figures in the territories whom we approached, seeking their opinions. One of them, who naturally forbade the disclosure of his name, said that this time 'Arafat is trying to go too far, and that the failure of these ambitious goals will cause new perils to arise. [end videotape]

Arrests Near Ramallah; Curfews

TA020545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The army carried out a sweep in a village near Ramallah early this morning, and arrested several organizers of the recent violence there. Steve Rodan has more:

The village of 'Ayn 'Arik, near Ramallah, had been a trouble spot for the past week. Village residents had blocked the road leading to the Jewish settlement of Dolev, near Jerusalem. Early this morning, the Army raided the village and arrested suspected organizers and inciters of the unrest. Soldiers reportedly did not meet any resistance; 'Ayn 'Arik was then placed under curfew.

Last night, the Army imposed a curfew on the Samarian village of Hablah after residents clashed with soldiers. This morning, curfews are also in force at the Al-'Arrub refugee camp near Hebron, the nearby village of Bani Na'im, as well as the Ramallah area village of 'Abud. In Samaria, the Army cordoned off the villages of Qabatiyah and Jarba'.

Disturbances were also reported overnight at the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm. A firebomb was thrown at an army patrol. No injuries or damage were reported. Another firebomb was thrown at a hotel in Bethlehem; slight damage was reported.

In the southern suburb of Gaza City, four firebombs were thrown at an Army patrol. No injuries or damage were reported.

Earlier, a military court in Gaza ordered the immediate release of five Arabs being held in administrative detention because of legal improprieties. One of those released is a religious leader from Dayr al-Balah.

This morning, soldiers remain on alert in the territories in the wake of leaflets calling for more Palestinian unrest over the next week.

Darawshah Forms 'Arab Democratic Party'

TA011024 Tel Aviv MA ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 88 p A7

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] The political movement set up by Knesset Member 'Abdal-Wahab Darawshah, who recently quit the Alignment, will be called the Arab Democratic Party [Hamiflaga Hademokratit Ha'aravit]. Darawshah said yesterday that he had rented an office in Nazareth and that a bunch of youths have already started working with him on a voluntary basis. He said he is not worried about funds since he does not need money at this stage.

King Husayn Holds Talks on Middle East Peace

Meets With Shultz

JN011842 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in his place of residence in London at noon today U.S. Secretary of State Mr George Shultz. Attending the meeting, which lasted 3 hours and which was interrupted by a luncheon, were Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister, and Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

His Majesty King Husayn listened to a detailed explanation from Mr Shultz on the new U.S. ideas to advance the peace process in the Middle East. His majesty stressed to Shultz the constants of the Jordanian stand and the desire of Jordan and the sisterly Arab states to reach a peaceful and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also stressed Jordan's adherence to the idea of holding an international peace conference to be attended by the Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

His majesty also stressed to the U.S. secretary of state Jordan's rejection of partial, short-term, and separate settlements. His majesty indicated that the elements of the U.S. ideas need to be developed in order to be in harmony with the requisites of a comprehensive and just peace. His majesty expressed the hope that the United States will continue consultation and coordination with the Soviet Union and the other Security Council permanent member states and parties to the conflict in order to hold an international Middle East peace conference.

Further on Shultz Talks

JN011756 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Mar 88

['Adil Malik dispatch from London]

[Text] The anticipated meeting between King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was held at noon in London. It continued from 1330 to 1630 in the form of talks and a working luncheon hosted by the Jordanian monarch in honor of the U.S. secretary. The meeting and the talks took a long time because of the extraordinary nature of this meeting, as is known.

At the beginning, Secretary Shultz briefed King Husayn on the results of his tour of some states in the region and how the parties he met reacted toward the proposals he carried with him to the region. King Husayn wanted to learn the extent of any possible shift or change in the Israeli stand toward the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, or whether the Israeli stand toward negotiations continued to be unchangeable and undebatable.

Thus far, we cannot report the presence of any radical or principal change in stands or positions between the U.S. and Jordanian sides. During today's meeting, King Husayn reaffirmed that the key to a solution lies in holding an international peace conference. He also stressed that any separate or direct bilateral negotiations will not lead to firm and lasting solutions.

Upon leaving King Husayn's place of residence in London a short while ago, Secretary Shultz remained silent and declined to comment on the meeting. The Jordanian side is currently preparing a statement on this meeting. It will be released by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i within a short while.

Receives USSR Ambassador

JN011949 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] London—His Majesty King Husayn received in his place of residence in London this afternoon Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador in London. The Soviet envoy conveyed to his majesty a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev within the framework of bilateral coordination and consultation on the Middle East issue and the ways to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement in it. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, attended the meeting.

Amman Newspapers Comment on U.S. Proposals

'Positive' U.S. Intentions

JN020752 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Mar 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "An Important Stop on the Path of Shultz' Tour"]

[Text] The lengthy meeting in London yesterday between King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is an important last stop on the path of the U.S. secretary of state's 5-day tour of several Middle East capitals.

The meeting with George Shultz was another opportunity in which King Husayn reaffirmed the insistence of Jordan and its fraternal Arab states on the need to achieve a peaceful and just settlement in the region through an international peace conference held under UN auspices.

Thus, it was natural for King Husayn to reiterate, on behalf of all the Arabs, rejection of a partial, phased, or separate settlement on the basis of the firm belief that a just, durable, and comprehensive peace is the only possible solution to the crisis in the region, and that any other measures or remedies not inspired by such a solution will be doomed to failure.

Having listened to the U.S. ideas on giving impetus to the peace process in the region, King Husayn was anxious to clearly point out to the U.S. secretary of state the need to develop such ideas so that they will be compatible with the requirements for establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Thus the ball is still in the U.S. court. Real movement toward peace requires coordination with the Soviet Union and the five permanent member-states of the Security Council—that is, if Washington truly wants to contribute toward establishing peace and to participate in the collective international effort to completely end 4 decades of wars and tension in the region.

The United States, which by its latest move has expressed positive intentions with regard to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, must recognize all the changes brought about by the popular uprising in the occupied territory; consequently, it must stop seeing the new reality from an extremist Israeli-Likud angle. Ultimately, it should make a big and historic step toward the process of establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the region.

U.S. Role Viewed

JN020932 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Mar 88 p 1

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Everyone Rejects and Everyone Wants a U.S. Role"]

[Text] "Everyone does not approve of the new U.S. ideas, but everyone agrees on an active U.S. role in resolving the crisis." This is the impression George Shultz wants us to have of his Middle East tour. This may be true in general terms, but it is not so in its particularities. Collective rejection does not need 50 hours of high-level talks and more than 50 hours of marginal talks at the level of aides and ambassadors.

Therefore, some are trying to magnify the headlines. Statements, as we have learned, do not mean or express politics. They may even contradict it. This part of the world can have both summer and winter at the same time, and in this region one can have two faces: one for the beggars and the other for the sultans.

Will Shultz return to the region from Brussels after the NATO summit conference? He will not return to hear the word "rejection" once again. It seems the U.S. ideas can take much amendment. Large headlines can provide a vast area for puns, and diplomats and lawyers are aware of this area better than others.

If Shultz does not return to the region from Brussels, we can say that Washington has placed the region in protracted labor and will omit it from consideration throughout the presidential elections. In this way, Washington can also keep the region away from the tent of U.S.-USSR detente, devote the remaining period of the Republican administration to nuclear disarmament, and leave regional conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Nicaragua, and South Africa to the new administration.

Certainly, there is a crisis in the region. The Americans know that this crisis expands and becomes more complicated whenever they try to approach it. In fact, the region is searching for an active U.S. role. However, it is searching for it in order to hold it. The solution itself lies in holding the U.S. role.

The Israelis want Washington to play an Arab role in encircling the Palestinians and foiling their uprising, the Arabs want Washington to get Israeli to adopt a moderate position, and the Palestinians want Washington to recognize their role in the face of Israel's rejectionist policy.

UK's Mellor Talks With Crown Prince, Departs

JN011628 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received David Mellor, state minister for foreign affairs at the British Foreign Office, at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. His highness explained to the British minister the details of the talks held between the Jordanian side and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his visit to Jordan on the Middle East issues. His highness the regent affirmed the Jordanian stand toward ending the Arab-Israeli conflict—the stand which calls for convening an international conference as the only way to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement. His highness also affirmed the need for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory to achieve the principle of land in exchange for peace.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the British ambassador in Amman, and the delegation accompanying Mellor.

Mellor left Amman for home at noon today after a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he held talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on the developments in the Middle East, the situation in the occupied Arab territory in light of the popular uprising, and the ongoing efforts to give a momentum to peace process.

He was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister, the acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the heads of the Organizations and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Further Reportage on Higgins Kidnapping

'American Plot' Uncovered

TA011716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The kidnappers of U.S. Colonel William Higgins have announced that they are about to try him for espionage, but only after they have completed interrogating him. The kidnappers, calling themselves the Oppressed on Earth—a euphemism for Hizballah—have said they have uncovered an American plot regarding southern Lebanon.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the announcement made to foreign reporters in Beirut stated that the decision to try the U.S. officer has become firm due to Israel's oppressive actions in the territories and in light of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region.

Interrogation To Continue

NC011759 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1743 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Oppressed on Earth organization, which earlier had claimed responsibility for kidnapping U.S. officer William Higgins, has announced the existence of an Israeli-U.S. conspiracy aimed against southern Lebanon that was revealed in the course of its interrogation of the hostage. The announcement came in a typewritten statement delivered to an Arab news agency in Beirut.

The organization also asserted that tangible proof had been obtained from Higgins that a plot had been devised against the South. The organization noted that the interrogation of Lieutenant Colonel Higgins will continue.

Statement Chides Media Campaign

NC011171 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1653 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, which had previously claimed responsibility for kidnapping [Lieutenant] Colonel Higgins, distributed a statement this evening saying that the current media campaign attempts to play down the spying role played by Col Higgins.

The organization pointed out that it has obtained unequivocal evidence of a U.S.-Israeli deal that both sides had planned to carry out regarding the south. The organization added that all pertinent facts will be placed at the disposal of the ulema, as well as the public, after it completes its interrogation of Higgins.

The organization warned Israel against continuing its daily attacks against the Palestinian people in an attempt to quell their Islamic uprising, as well as its attacks against the Jabal 'Amil villages. The organization also warned against the tours undertaken by George Shultz, which aim to abort the uprising. The organization said all this will make us more determined to bring Higgins to trial.

Abduction Called 'Game'

NC011729 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] In an attempt to justify the kidnapping of U.S. officer Higgins, scholar Muhammad Hasan al-Amin has said he believes the abduction of Higgins is a game being played by the big powers on the local scene. Referring to Amal's measures in the south, he said what is required is that differences be confronted within certain limits that will not lead to reactions which, in turn, would waste the achievements made regarding the security of the south.

Hizballah Scores Amal Measures Against Ulema

NC021325 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] The kidnapping of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Higgins continues to draw reactions from both Hizballah and Amal. Hizballah responded to Minister Nabir Birri in a statement saying: It is not permissible for you to attack our ulema, and we advise that an apology be extended to the Islamic revolution. Hizballah notes further: We want to ask why Birri's armed men are needed to escort ulema during their eminences' movements in the south, in view of the fact these ulema already have escorts charged with safeguarding their security.

Do the weapons whose task is to defend the ulema pose a threat to the security of the south or is this formula the ornate cover that Birri uses to beautify the picture of the ugliest measure taken in the history of the Shi'ites, which is aimed against the ulema and their movement? The statement continues: How can those who respect the Islamic revolution in Iran allow themselves to raid its institutions and centers in Tyre?

Further on Situation of 2 UNRWA Employees

Abductors Say Workers Released

NC012007 Paris AFP in English 2004 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 1 (AFP)—Two Scandinavian relief workers kidnapped in southern Lebanon last month have been released, their abductors said Tuesday.

The Clandestine Revolutionary Cells made the disclosure in a handwritten message sent to a western news agency in Beirut. The communique was accompanied by a color picture of Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Jorgensen.

The two men were snatched by armed men near the southern Lebanon port of Sidon on February 5.

The communique did not say when the pair had been released or where they were freed. It only said that the decision to free them came after an interrogation of the pair "proved their innocence."

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency which employed the Scandinavians could not immediately confirm the report.

UNRWA Confirms Release

NC012051 Beirut Voice of Lebanon 2044 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] A short while ago, UNRWA confirmed the release of its Scandinavian employees, Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Jorgensen.

A UNRWA spokesman pointed out that the two employees were freed near the Summerland Hotel, at the approach to Beirut. The spokesman said they are in good health, but did not mention where they are nor how they reached UNRWA Headquarters. He added they will hold a news conference at midnight. It should be recalled that the Revolutionary Cells Organization issued a statement earlier tonight announcing the release of Stening and Jorgensen.

'Arafat, Jumblatt, Sa'd Thanked

NC012306 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The UNRWA employees, Jorgensen and Stening, who were released earlier, have been moved to East Beirut. They are expected to hold a news conference at 0800 this morning [2 March] at the UNRWA office in Al-Hazimiyah, according to John Fennessy, UNRWA deputy director in Lebanon.

Fennessy pointed out that the two employees are in good health, noting that they were freed in the vicinity of the UNRWA office in West Beirut near the Summerland Hotel. He did not specify the exact location where they were released.

It has been noticed that the UNRWA deputy director made a point of thanking Yasir 'Arafat, Minister Jumblatt, and [Nasirite Popular Organization Secretary General] Mustafa Sa'd for their efforts. He also denied any relation between the kidnappers of Lieutenant Colonel Higgins and the abductors of the UNRWA employees.

Sa'd Says UNRWA Aid To Resume

NC011830 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, received a message from Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson today. In the message Carlsson thanks him for the efforts which he is exerting to secure the release of the two kidnapped UNRWA officials, Stening and Jorgensen. Swedish Ambassador to Lebanon Ingemar Sjoemberg handed Sa'd the message during a meeting in Sidon today, which was attended by the first secretary of the Swedish Embassy in Damascus.

In another development, Mustafa Sa'd received the UNRWA security chief, who informed him that the health and food assistance which the UNRWA used to provide will be resumed as of tomorrow morning, Wednesday.

Employees Meet Press, Depart

NC020840 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Released UNRWA employees Stening and Jorgensen held a press conference at the Comfort Hotel in Al-Hazimiyah this morning. Stening spoke primarily about the circumstances surrounding their kidnapping and asserted their readiness to return to work where they had been before. Saying he did not know the identity of the abductors or how the operation was carried out, Stening noted that their kidnapping was politically motivated. He added that the four individuals who carried out the operation were professionals.

John Fennessy, UNRWA deputy director in Lebanon, introduced the two employees and gave journalists 10 minutes to ask them questions. At 0930 Stening and Jorgensen left Beirut on board a military helicopter bound for Larnaca, from where each will head for his country to meet with his family.

Say Kidnappers Apologized

NC020958 Paris AFP in English 0944 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 2 (AFP)—Two Scandinavian relief workers left the Lebanese capital Wednesday and headed home after a 25-day kidnap ordeal in which their unknown captors had moved them to several different hide-outs in the boot (trunk) of a car.

Jan Stening from Sweden, 44, and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58, in a press conference here before their departure, said they could not identify their kidnappers.

"We never knew by whom we were held. All the men we saw were masked. We were blindfolded at the beginning," Mr Stening said. "We have not the slightest idea of why were kidnapped."

"They were very professional and efficient," Mr Jorgensen said.

His colleague in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Mr Stening, said that they were both "very well treated" and kept together.

Their kidnappers had hidden them in the boot of a car to transport them to "seven or eight" different locations before reaching Moslem West Beirut, where they were finally released.

"The most difficult was not to know for how long we would be held and why we were held," Mr Stening said.

The pair, who were abducted near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon on February 5, were freed Tuesday after their kidnappers, the shadowy Revolutionary Cells, said they had been found "innocent".

Mr Stening, speaking earlier in a Swedish radio interview, said he and his colleague had spent most of the time lying bound on the floor of a room, being allowed to step outside once a day for their ablutions.

"At the end of last week we were knocked out by an injection and taken to Beirut. Our kidnappers were masked and refused to speak to us. They never used English to each other", he said.

Mr Stening told the radio, "Conditions were better in Beirut, where we underwent a symbolic interrogation. We were accused of having links with secret services. We were later declared innocent and were given virtual apologies by our kidnappers."

The two Scandinavians were flown out from Beirut Airport aboard an UNRWA jet headed for Larnaca, Cyprus, from where they were expected to head for Northern Europe, airport officials here said.

"They wish to rejoin their families," UNRWA Assistant-Director John Fennessy said. He added that the release of its employees could lead to a resumption of aid to Palestinian refugees following drastic cuts in UNRWA's relief operations since the kidnappings.

Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Wednesday he was "relieved and happy" at the release of Mr Stening.

Al-Huss Returns From Damascus, Makes Statement

NC011752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] In a statement made upon his arrival in Beirut from Damascus this evening, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam briefed me on the talks U.S. Secretary of State Shultz recently held in Damascus regarding regional developments in light of the situation dictated by the blessed Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Our discussion dealt with the dimensions of the projected U.S. ideas in light of the continuing bestial, barbaric policy pursued by the Israeli occupation forces.

Dr al-Huss went on to say: Brother Khaddam has given me a copy of the plan sent by the Lebanese president via the U.S. envoy. We discussed the contents of the plan in detail. I made remarks on the plan so they would be taken into account when the U.S. envoys resume their contacts with the Syrian leadership regarding the Lebanese situation.

Resistance Reports Operations in South 1-2 Mar

Lahd, Israelis Attacked

NC011240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Resistance fighters in the south have carried out seven operations against a patrol and agent Lahd militia positions in the security zone in the past 36 hours. The operations were carried out in the areas of Rabb al-Thulathin, Marj 'Uyun, Rshaf, Taw'amat Niha, Al-'Ayshiyah, Kafr Tibnit, and Markabah.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces shelled liberated villages just outside the security zone in the western sector, the Al-Nabatiyah area, and the eastern sector.

The general civilian resistance issued a statement yesterday saying that the Bani Khayyam Martyrs Group launched an attack on agent Lahd militia forces as they were deploying around Tallat Rshaf position at 0730 yesterday. A resistance group of Hizb fighters also pounded the position with 6-mm and 82-mm mortars. The position was hit with several shells.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that the Karbala' unit of the Lebanese Resistance groups—Amal—attacked an enemy patrol as it was advancing toward the Kafr Tibnit-Al-Kassarah c[illegible]sing at 1530 yesterday, using rockets and 82-mm mortars. The enemy patrol was forced to retreat.

The Islamic resistance has also issued a statement saying that the Shaykh Ibrahim Murad and Subhi Hamadah Martyrs Group of the Islamic resistance planted an explosive device on the main road to the occupied town of Markabah at 1615 on Sunday. The device was detonated as a Merkava tank of the Zionist invaders was passing on the road; the tank was completely destroyed and its crew of six to eight was killed.

In another development, according to security information, occupation forces shelled the southern periphery of the town of Hasbaya from their positions in Jabal Humayyid yesterday morning. About eight 83-mm shells fell on the area. The town of Kafra was also attacked with 120-mm shells at 1100, and Yatar came under 120-mm shellfire at 1200 yesterday.

Positions Rocketed

NC0207#8 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Resistance fighters in the south have attacked with mortars and rockets positions held by the Israeli occupation forces and Lahd's militia in Tallat al-Suwaydā', Al-Nabatiyah, and Marj 'Uyun. Meanwhile, Israeli occupation patrols discovered a rocket launching pad and several mines planted on roads used by enemy patrols.

The Lebanese Resistance Groups—Amal—have declared the Martyr Muhammad Hamadah group of the Badr Company attacked the Tallat al-Suwaydā' position with a number of 82-mm mortars at 0645 yesterday. Another group also attacked the same position with 107-mm rockets. Some 15 minutes later enemy forces searched the vicinity of Tallat al-Suwaydā'.

According to information received from Hasbayya, resistance fighters attacked with Katyushas a position held by the South Lebanese Army at the eastern approach to Marj 'Uyun. A rocket fell in the area of Al-Khiyam town.

In another development, a 12-member force of Lahd militiamen and enemy intelligence men crossed a Norwegian UNIFIL roadblock at the western entrance to the town of Shab'a yesterday morning. The force entered the town and searched a number of houses. It then arrested citizens Mahdi Kan'an, 'Imad Hammud, and Ziyad Nasir, taking them to the militia headquarters in Zaghlah and then to Al-Khiyam detention camp.

In western Al-Biqa' an enemy force consisting of 40 men advanced from its positions in Tallat al-Ahmadiyah and Burghuz yesterday morning. The force advanced 4 km into the liberated areas and reached the hills east of Zillaya. Meanwhile, a Lahd militia patrol discovered a 14-kg explosive device on the Balat-Dibbin combat line. The patrol searched the area and also discovered a minefield.

According to information from western Al-Biqa', the occupation forces stationed on the Al-Sumayri combat line shelled the town of Maydun on the night of Monday-Tuesday, damaging 10 houses. A militia force also searched Mazra'at Shubayr and Al-Qutrannah farm and neighboring forests. It found a land mine planted on a military road in Al-Qutrannah area.

U.S. Policy Runs 'Counter' to Arab Rights

JN0115Z7 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before his tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz did not rule out failure, despite the push given to him by President Reagan who, speaking at a news conference, called for the abandonment of old ideas. The ideas Shultz presented in the Middle East were neither new nor dissociated from the old ideas.

This is proved by the fact Washington is still rejecting the idea of holding a UN-sponsored effective international conference, and is still ignoring UN resolutions—those that reject the acquisition of others' lands by force and which emphasize the right of every people exposed to aggression and occupation to determine their future.

It is also proved by the fact that the U.S. Administration has nothing to offer except a short-term settlement, one which does not deal with the crux of the problem and which conflicts with the U.S. officials' declaration that they are working for a comprehensive settlement.

A comprehensive settlement based on just foundations with clear objectives cannot ignore the restoration of all the occupied Arab territories, nor the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights to self-determination, repatriation and establishment of an independent state on national Palestinian soil.

All international resolutions and stands, except the stands of the United States and the Zionist enemy, stress the need to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They also consider a UN-sponsored international conference a real and effective way to fulfill the international will and remove the causes of the conflict in the region, and the resulting tension and dangers that go beyond the Middle East.

Although the U.S. secretary of state admits that his proposals were not accepted, he insists on continuing his efforts in this regard. He thus affirms that the U.S. policy does not only oppose the principles and fundamentals of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, but also asserts that it insists on running counter to the Arab will and rights, the UN resolutions, and the wishes of the international community.

This makes the United States doubly responsible; when it declares that it will not exert any pressure on Israel, it encourages Israel to practice its barbaric crimes against the Arab citizens. Moreover, by placing obstacles in the face of holding an international peace conference, it is actually practicing an Israeli policy; U.S. efforts are channelled in the service of the Zionist entity's expansionist schemes.

Syria has clearly pointed out that the policy of short-term and partial settlements has previously proven its futility. Consequently, rubbing the dust off this policy does not and will not give it life.

The one who is really working for peace should admit that the situation will further exacerbate if stands do not stem from the following two principles: the restoration of all Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights. Those who ignore this fact should listen well to what the stones of the blazing popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories are saying.

Shultz Tour 'Pretext' To Control 'Uprising'

JN0113Z9 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Repression and the Blaze of the Uprising," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says:

Before the eyes and within earshot of the world, and every time the Palestinian people's popular uprising escalates and stands fast against the Zionist occupation forces in the occupied territories, the Israeli enemy escalates its brutality and violation of the international norms concerning its occupation of the Arab territories.

In so doing, it ignores all the UN resolutions and world public opinion which is now calling everywhere for ending the repression and terrorism to which our people are being subjected merely because they have risen to wrest their rights which are recognized by all peoples and nations.

The United States is the only state which puts the victim of aggression and the aggressor on equal footing. It also adopts a total bias toward Israel when the issue is related to the achievement of peace in the region, to ending repression against the Palestinian people under occupation, and to the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Shultz tour, which is taking place amid the uprising and its pressures, is actually a new U.S. attempt to contain our people's uprising in the occupied territories on the pretext of searching for peace. This tour does not seek to recognize the legitimate objectives of the uprising as a step toward achieving these objectives.

Most of the world states' stands, including the U.S. western allies, are unanimous on the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East as the only means to achieve a solution to the Zionist-Arab conflict. However, Washington still adheres to the Zionist stand which has peaked in its fascism and racism.

Washington has rejected the principles of holding an international conference and has sought partial solutions which would fragment the Arabs in their confrontation of Israel and make Israel the strongest party at the negotiating table, in order to secure all the Zionist interests in the region regarding any proposed solution at the expense of all Arab rights which the whole world recognizes and calls for restoring.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: In light of this, our people's uprising in occupied Palestine is not a crisis or a temporary incident that will abate at some time. In fact, it is a revolution whose objectives and tasks the new U.S. attempts and the Zionist tyranny will never be able to change, particularly regarding liberating the land and restoring rights, including the right to self-determination.

Lebanese Officials Hold Talks 1 March

Delegation Meets Khaddam

DN01 1620 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, 1 Mar (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received here today Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister in Lebanon; Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction; and Walid Jumblatt, minister of public works, transportation, and tourism. The talks centered on developments in Lebanon.

Al-Husayni Meets Qaddurah

DN01 1238 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] At noon today People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, who congratulated him on his new post and wished him success in his work. Qaddurah thanked him for the good sentiments of brotherhood.

During the meeting, they discussed several current issues in the region and developments in the Lebanese arena. Qaddurah affirmed Syria's constant stand under President Hafiz al-Asad in supporting the fraternal Lebanese people until they manage to end their ordeal and achieve their unity, security, and safety on the basis of their sons' national accord.

The discussion then centered on some parliamentary issues, the importance of coordination and cooperation on issues of joint interest in the service of the two sisterly countries' interests, and current issues.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Kabul Rally on Geneva Talks

LD0122209 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Inspired by the united determination of the Afghan people, over 100,000 citizens of Kabul attended a glorious meeting held this morning and expressed their resolute support for the restoration of peace in accordance with the objectives of the national reconciliation policy. They demanded that the Geneva talks result in success.

Today's glorious meeting was held in the grand square next to the president's office.

The following attended:

Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Republic of Afghanistan Government; leaders of ORTA [Organization of Revolutionary Toilers of Afghanistan] and ORA [Organization of Toilers of Afghanistan]; members of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan; members of the Justice Party of Afghan Peasants; leaders and members of the country's social organizations; a number of ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps of friendly countries represented in the Republic of Afghanistan; representatives; clergy, elders and chiefs; workers; peasants; traders, intelligentsia of Kabul Province; as well as representatives of other strata and classes.

BIA correspondents report that early this morning citizens from 11 wards of Kabul, carrying peace slogans, placards, and photos of Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, held a glorious meeting in the square next to the headquarters of the presidential office.

Daud Razmyar, secretary of the Kabul party committee, delivered a short speech around 1000 and then a few verses from the holy Koran were read by Qari 'Abdul Ghafar Forqani. The Kabul party committee secretary then asked Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to open the glorious meeting of Kabul citizens with a speech.

Accompanied by the enthusiasm and warm welcome displayed by those attending the meeting, the Afghan president delivered his speech and said:

Dear compatriots, sons and daughters of our noble people:

With full responsibility toward our beloved homeland and at these difficult moments we have gathered here in this historic square in solid ranks to display our unity and solidarity in the struggle for peace. I am confident that our compatriots hear my voice in every corner of our homeland. My words are being supported by the people and governments of all those countries which genuinely want peace for our people and want to rescue our people from national tragedy, namely, the fratricidal war.

Talks will begin tomorrow in Geneva, talks to which Afghans attach great hope for a successful conclusion. We are looking forward to peace from Geneva. Let this round of talks bring the good news of peace.

We have carried out and will make every possible effort on the basis of the principles of the sacred religion of Islam as well as the wishes and determination of our people, so that Afghanistan's difficulties will be resolved by peaceful means. This fact is clear to all.

On the initiative of our esteemed clergy, we have formulated the national reconciliation policy which has broad support inside and outside the country. We have displayed flexibility and realism. We have embarked on compromise for the sake of peace, for which our people are waiting [word indistinct]. We have travelled a long and difficult road. With God's help, our readiness and struggle may result in a lasting consolidation of peace in the land of Afghanistan. We have the right to hope that other relevant parties will use reason and political understanding in order to normalize the situation around Afghanistan.

There is a saying among our people: Kindness will never be forgotten. We will be forever thankful for all those who support our genuine efforts in the cause of peace.

The Afghan people think highly of the United Nation's peaceful activities. Our people believe and are hopeful that this credible organization supports our sacred right for peace and the right of our people to live in peace. Our people have made their choice. Here in Afghanistan there is cooperation and a reciprocal perception of peace. This ideology is the foundation for UN activities which has been and will be looked at with appreciation. We support ('good) relations with all people and we will try to transform our region into a region of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation.

The statement by a close friend of our people—M.S. Gorbachev—on firm steps for politically resolving the situation around Afghanistan and my statement are quite clear to the world's public. We will not give up a word in these documents because these statements are a program for peace and a program for security. With the participation of the United Nations the knot of Afghanistan can be untied by the Afghan, Pakistani, Soviet, and U.S. governments.

This knot must be untied. Our people will never agree to a government formed elsewhere and to its being exported to Afghanistan. This is an irrational and unrealistic idea. Have we ever exported such a thing? The

national reconciliation policy has brought about a good political platform for all progressive forces and opens the door for compromise and friendship. Let us come and show our people our love and feelings. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Najibullah Speech, Pakistani Stand

LD020714 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 1, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR commenting on the speech of Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan delivered at the extensive session of ulema and clergies of city and province of Kabul held here after Koran recitation on the occasion of 40th day of Ghafar Khan demise on February 29.

Touching upon the statements released by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the president pointed to the non-constructive stand of Pakistan which contradicts the Geneva accords and create different pretexts among them creation of a so-called interim government as a pre-condition for signing Geneva accords. The president said the people and the sovereign state of Afghanistan will never agree with the prescription of governments made in Islamabad or London. This is the right which exclusively belongs to the people of Afghanistan to decide upon their destiny.

The national reconciliation programme including formation of a coalition government which was earlier declared by the Republic of Afghanistan has general and nation-wide characteristics and includes all the Afghan people, different groups, and first of all the armed opposition groups inside the country.

The commentator writes that the statements of the Afghanistan leadership and that of the Soviet Union have made clear that in case the Geneva accords are signed and interference into the internal affairs of Afghanistan is ceased the return of the Soviet troops will start on May 15 to their country. Those who do not apply common sense in the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and are searching for unjustified pretexts, at a time when all the Geneva documents became ready, indeed, are opposing the process of Geneva talks.

Dealing with the attention paid by the government to religious affairs the commentator writes hundreds of millions afghanis have been spent for building and repairing mosques and other sacred places. Twenty mosques have been built and 394 mosques were repaired during the current Afghan year. Reminding the share of clergies in the state power, the commentator writes, eleven clergies are members of the revolutionary council which will carry on its duties till the formation of national assembly and 1,029 clergies are working in the composition of local organs of state power and administration.

They hold different posts such as governors and chairman of council of the people's deputies. Their share in the commissions for national reconciliation is 12 percent.

Wakil Says 'Final Solution' Sought in Geneva

AU011828 Paris AFP in English 1807 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Geneva, March 1 (AFP)—The Kabul government is determined to reach an agreement in indirect talks here with Pakistan and sees no hindrances to finally resolving the Afghan conflict, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said here Tuesday.

"All obstacles impeding a final solution have been removed," Mr Wakil said on the eve of the resumption of the U.N.-sponsored negotiations.

The Afghan delegation will "not bring up new issues so as to block the road to a solution" of the conflict.

But the problem was to be "resolved by Afghans themselves and nobody else," he added.

Mr Wakil also stressed that the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan and the end of any foreign aid to the rebel movements had to be "simultaneous."

He added that the expected return of refugees to their homes was likely to "cause difficulties for a weak country like Afghanistan." [passage omitted]

Coalition Proposal Presented

LD021331 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1152 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 2 (TANJUG)—As unofficially learned, Afghanistan's delegation in the negotiations with Pakistan, starting today in Geneva, will present mediator Diego Cordovez with a proposal on the make-up of a coalition government to be set up after the Soviet withdrawal.

As learned, the proposal is completely different from the insurgent leadership's proposal on the make-up of the "transitional government".

The Kabul proposal, as presented by diplomatic sources here, envisages that the key positions in the coalition government—in the foreign, internal affairs, defence, information and education ministries—be retained by representatives of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

PDPA General Secretary Muhammad Najibullah would remain the president of the Republic.

Kabul is prepared to negotiate with the mujahidin on the remaining 28 governmental posts.

As noted, the Kabul government is ready to "share power" with former King Zahir Shah and the leaders of the three "moderate" mujahidin organizations from Peshawar. The PDPA, however, is not considering a compromise with the four "fundamentalist" insurgent parties.

The insurgent proposal for the new government, on the other hand, allows the possibility that a PDPA representative be included in the future Afghan government. Dr. Najibullah called the possibility "ridiculous."

Kirgiz SSR Delegation Continues Visit, Talks

Received by Najibullah

LD292220 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning met with the delegation of the Kirgiz SSR led by Mukun Asyeyinov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of that republic. At the meeting, which was also attended by Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Vladimir Fedosov, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, cooperation of the Kirgiz SSR with the Bamian and Vardak Provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan and its future expansion were discussed.

Delegation Leaves 29 Feb

LD292232 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] The delegation of the Kirgiz SSR led by Mukun Asyeyinov, which came to Kabul on a friendly and official visit, left for home today. The following were present at Kabul airport to see off the delegation: Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim; Sayyed Ekram Paygir, minister of state for direct cooperation affairs; the governors of Bamian and Vardak Provinces; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Kabul.

Mujahidin Transitional Government Plan Detailed

PM021005 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Exclusive Report on Complete Plan for Structure and Policy of Transitional Afghan Mujahidin Government"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior official in the Afghan mujahidin movement has announced that a shura [consultative] council comprising the heads of the seven Afghan organizations is currently looking into the policy of a government whose formation is to be officially announced in the near future. The Afghan official, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in Peshawar, indicated that the government structure is ready and has been presented to the quarters concerned in Pakistan.

He confirmed that Eng Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay, deputy leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, will head the government. Whereas Zobayhullah Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, the son of the leader of the National Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan, will be appointed a deputy prime minister.

The Afghan official denied reports that a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan has begun, saying this is mere propaganda to cover up the use of new weapons and reinforcements in both northern and western parts of the country in addition to some of the main bases.

According to the statements made by the Afghan official, the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin has completed the final draft of the plan for a provisional government in Afghanistan, which would replace the present government, supervise the Soviet forces' withdrawal, maintain security and order, and supervise the next elections in Afghanistan.

The plan stipulates that since the Soviets have announced their pledge to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan, the parties concerned must work, shouldering their great responsibility, in accordance with the inspirations and ambitions of the Afghan people, who are continuing their jihad in defense of their faith, freedom, independence, and the sovereignty of their country. Thus, the leaders of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin have unanimously agreed to settle the problem in accordance with the following framework:

1. The formation of a provisional government to supervise a cease-fire and the transition to a peaceful stage. It will ensure the safe and full withdrawal of Soviet forces and the return of refugees in dignity and supervise general withdrawals according to the principles of shari'a over a period of 6 months after the Soviet forces' withdrawal.
2. The government's structure includes the following:

A supreme shura council representing the highest authority in the state and comprising leaders of the seven parties who will chair the council jointly during the transitional period.

A provisional government characterized by a broad base representing all strata of Afghan people. It is proposed that it would replace the present regime in Kabul before the signing of the Geneva treaty under UN auspices.

The government comprises a council of ministers of 28 ministers in addition to the prime minister, who is also head of state. The council of ministers comprises 14 mujahidin, 7 refugees, and 7 others from among Muslims now living in Kabul.

The shura council comprises 75 members: 2 elected members from each governorate—that is, a total of 56 members—and the remaining 19 members from among the ulema, intellectuals, and experts.

Regional councils formed via mutual consultation will govern the provinces during the transitional period.

A totally independent election committee will be formed to draw up rules on the basis of which elections will be

conducted immediately after the withdrawal of Soviet forces.
The name of the future state will be "The Islamic State of Afghanistan;" both the Koran and sunnah are the supreme law.
A reform and construction committee will be formed comprising Afghans qualified for this purpose. It will begin to operate at the alliance's centers.
The provisional government will sign the Geneva agreement and shoulder full responsibility for implementing this agreement and guaranteeing the safe return of Soviet forces if the treaty is acceptable. The government will pursue an independent and nonaligned foreign policy, especially with its neighbors. This requires noninterference in its neighbors' internal affairs.
The Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin calls on all world states, especially the Soviet Union, to participate in building the structure and economy of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Shah on Composition

PM021023 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "In His First Press Statement Ahmad Shah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Mujahidin Government Will Not Include Non-Muslims"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The head of the transitional Afghan government, to be officially announced within 10 days, has stated that contacts have begun with both Islamic and non-Islamic governments to gain their recognition of the new government and acquaint them with their programs for the next stage.

Yesterday morning in a telephone interview with him in Peshawar, by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from London, Eng Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay, head of the new government, who is 44, stated that "all Afghan mujahidin and refugees will participate in the general rally to be held in the Pakistani city of Peshawar to emphasize their support and backing for the provisional government."

While Eng Shah stressed that he was not interested in the Soviet stand, he indicated: "If the Geneva negotiations reached any agreements without taking our demands into consideration, they would be rejected."

He disclosed that "the new government will not open the door for any communists to join it. It is for Muslims only."

Eng Ahmad Shah pointed out that "the mujahidin do not trust the Soviet Union's announcement, namely, that it intends to withdraw from Afghanistan or that arrangements to do so have begun."

There is nothing to prove such claims. In fact it is the opposite: The area of Khawz [name as transliterated] has been fiercely shelled for the past week; Soviet planes yesterday bombarded areas near western borders of Pakistan.

The highly confident Afghan leader said that "80 percent of the Afghan people support the mujahidin, and this has been clear in their support and backing for combat operations carried out by the mujahidin throughout the country."

In reply to a question about U.S.-Soviet rapprochement on the Afghan problem, he said "many do not want to see an Islamic government and certainly overlooking our demands would mean the continuation of our fight against the agent forces which have begun to groan as a result of pressure exerted on them by the mujahidin."

Regarding the U.S. stand on the new government, Eng Ahmad Shah said: "We have announced the government's program and are still awaiting a response from other countries, including the United States."

About the new government's readiness to assume power in the event the Soviet presence ends, Engineer Shah said: "Arrangements have been made and measures have been taken to fill any vacuum."

On coordination with the Pakistani Government, he said that "it is good and untroubled, but we make the decisions and stands."

As for the impact of a Soviet refusal to recognize the Afghan provisional government, he described it as "unlikely, since they have already stressed their rejection of it before even seeing our programs. They are now facing difficulties and will withdraw. They will then have no option but to recognize us as the actual representatives of the Afghan people."

The head of the Afghan transitional government concluded his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by saying "despite all that has been mentioned earlier, we once again confirm that we would guarantee the security and safety of Soviet forces if they agreed to withdraw and that a future state like the Islamic State of Afghanistan, whose constitution emanates from the Koran and sunnah, will be nothing but fair for its people, representing their aspirations to justice, freedom, and equality, and it will be tolerant with its neighbors."

Bangladesh

Ban on Meetings, Processions Announced

BK011327 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Polls for the general elections to the Bangladesh national parliament and to the offices of the commissioners of the four municipal corporations will take place on Thursday [3 March]. The elections to the parliament

will be held in 281 constituencies out of 300 constituencies. Eighteen [words indistinct] validly nominated candidates have already been unofficially declared elected, uncontested.

Meanwhile, public meetings and processions have been banned for 48 hours from midnight Thursday [as heard] within the constituencies where polls will be held. The ban on meetings and processions shall also simultaneously be effective in all wards of Rajshahi, Khulna, Dhaka, and Chittagong Municipal Corporations.

Opposition Condemns Report of Indian Takeover

BK010905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The main opposition parties and alliances in Bangladesh have condemned the news item which alleged that India plans to take over Bangladesh. The secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and leader of the seven-party alliance said in Dhaka that the news was circulated to divert public attention from the current unrest in Bangladesh. A leader of the eight-party alliance also said the news was published with an ulterior motive. He said such propaganda will not serve any purpose, but will only invite the wrath of the people.

India

Dhaka Embassy Says Invasion Report 'Ridiculous'

BK010323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi has termed as ridiculous the news item published in a Rawalpindi [Pakistan] daily saying that India has plans to invade Bangladesh. India thinks that some vested interests are behind this. A press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka regretted that credence should have been given by the Bangladesh newspapers to such mischievous and rubbish reports.

Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister

Natwar Singh Hosts Banquet

BK010358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Hungary has appreciated the Indian initiative for the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the Asian region. Speaking at a banquet hosted by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi, the Hungarian foreign minister, Mr Peter Varkonyi, described India as a leading force of the Nonaligned Movement. He commended India's role in elimination of racial discrimination and the establishment of a new international economic order.

Earlier, delegations of the two countries led by Mr Varkonyi and Mr Natwar Singh held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Science, Technology Pact Signed

BK010721 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] India and Hungary are to cooperate in nine areas of science and technology for 2 years beginning this year. They have agreed to cooperate in the fields of electronic components, industrial application of laser optics, biotechnology, and ceramic components. Mining, aluminum, industrial research, neurosciences and machine tools are among the other areas covered.

The program of cooperation was signed in New Delhi today by the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, Dr Vasant Gowarikar, and the Hungarian ambassador in India, Mr Jozsef Olah. The visiting Hungarian foreign minister, Dr Peter Varkonyi, and the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, were present on the occasion.

Calls on Rajiv Gandhi

BK011619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Hungary has offered India a credit of $200 million and has expressed keenness to participate in the country's development programs. The credit offer was made by the visiting Hungarian foreign minister, Mr Peter Varkonyi, during his discussions with the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi today. The two leaders considered the possibilities of expansion of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The Hungarian minister also called on the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, and expressed his country's willingness to strengthen cooperation with India in the energy sector. He said his country will be able to assist India in the expansion of lignite-fired thermal projects at Neyveli lignite complex in Tamil Nadu.

The Hungarian minister also called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Farmers Plan Campaign To Increase Prices

BK020710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 2 (AFP)—Farmers will launch an indefinite fill-the-jails movement in northern India Monday [7 March] by offering themselves for arrest in a bid to force the government to push up market prices, newspapers reported Wednesday.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union [BKU—Indian Farmers' Union] announced the new campaign centred on Uttar Pradesh State Tuesday, a day after the government offered a wide range of concessions to farmers in a rural-oriented budget, THE TIMES OF INDIA said.

The government, which controls agricultural prices, raised spending on agriculture and irrigation by 40 percent to almost a billion dollars besides proposing incentives, concessions and reliefs of about 700 million dollars for the drought-hit farm sector.

India's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture which employs about 70 percent of the workforce. India's 800 million people are 75 percent rural-basd.

BKU leader Mahendra Singh Tikait told a farmers' rally in Uttar Pradesh's Rajabpur town Tuesday that the concessions had been announced as a result of the union's earlier protests. "But as most of our demands are yet to be accepted, we will have to intensify the struggle," THE TIMES quoted him as saying.

The main demand is for higher prices for agricultural produce. Other demands include reserved jobs in the government for farmers' children and pensions for farmers aged over 55.

The BKU also wants electricity bills for the last six months of 1987—which saw the worst drought this century—to be written off and collection of land revenue to be suspended.

Mr. Tikait, 52, said batches of 100 to 150 farmers would begin courting arrest at Rajabpur on Monday and continue such action indefinitely in an intensification of the BKU's movement of non-cooperation with the government.

Courting arrest is a traditional peaceful form of protest in India whereby demonstrators offer themselves to police for arrest often by breaking official bans on the assembly of more than five people.

Mr. Tikait also demanded a judicial inquiry into the shooting dead of seven BKU volunteers by police in the town on February 15 and 16, THE TIMES said. The BKU leader has alleged that police opened fire to terrorise farmers into calling off their campaign.

The BKU on February 21 announced a non-cooperation movement under which farmers in predominantly rural Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state and a bastion of Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party. would not pay land revenue or electricity bills. They have suspended repayments on bank credits and refuse to sell land for government development works and housing programmes.

Concessions given to farmers in the new budget have been seen as a bid to defuse a potentially disastrous confrontation for the economy, but only appear to have emboldened the BKU to pursue its campaign.

Some 100,000 BKU volunteers laid a virtual siege to Meerut city in Uttar Pradesh from January 27 to February 20 in an unprecedented display of organised rural power to try to force the government to bow to their demands.

The siege was called off and the non-cooperation movement launched after Mr. Gandhi rejected all demands as unjustified. Before the budget farm subsidies were already running at four billion dollars annually, which some economists say is already far too high.

4 Killed in 'Terrorist' Incidents in Punjab

BK020314 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, four persons including a terrorist have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity since last night. In Amritsar District, one of the three terrorists who opened fire on a police naka [patrol] party near village Chamiri was killed when the naka party returned the fire. The other two managed to escape. The killed has been identified as Gurcharan Singh alias Tora. An assault rifle and some ammunition were recovered from his possession.

In another incident in Gurdaspur District, terrorists gunned down a shopkeeper and his son in village Muradpur. The same group of terrorists shot dead another person in village (Kokkanpur). Security Forces have also overpowered four hard-core terrorists after an encounter in Kandukhera village of Faridkot District. Three other terrorists were also apprehended in a raid on their hideouts. Some arms and ammunition were recovered.

Center Warns States About Naxalite Activities

BK021032 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Center is in close touch with the states where the Naxalite activities are on the rise. The state police has been strengthened by the deployment of paramilitary forces besides supply of additional weapons, while its network is also being upgraded. Giving these details the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, told the Lok Sabha today that Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra have pockets of left-wing extremist activities. State governments have been requested to take coordinated police action in the bordering areas and to improve the intelligence setup.

Gurkha Violence Continues in Darjeeling

BK011558 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] There are reports of incidents of arson in the Darjeeling hill areas. GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists burned down a primary school and

a veterinary hospital in Kalimpong last night. They also threw a bomb in Bhaktijhora and exploded a landmine in (Jorebunglow) this morning. There are no reports of any casualties.

The additional district magistrate of Darjeeling told our Kurseong correspondent that an attempt by the GNLF activists to force shopkeepers to down their shutters at Chowra Saturday [27 February] was foiled by the police. Shops and business establishments in Darjeeling and Kurseong remained open. The ICSC [Indian Civil Service Commission] examinations began today at Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong amidst tight security. The West Bengal governor, Professor Nurul Hassan, reviewed the latest situation in the hill areas at a meeting in Siliguri.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech on Birthday of Imam 'Ali

LD021433 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni, 11 minutes' duration, at his Jamaran residence to families of martyrs and POW's on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Imam 'Ali on 2 March—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate the Muslims of the world and the oppressed, particularly the nation of Iran, on the occasion of this auspicious feat. I beseech Almighty God to grant health to them all.

Our thoughts are not fully capable of understanding the spiritual status of his holiness, the lord of the believers [first Shi'a imam, 'Ali]. We cannot (?understand his spiritual status) to explain it even in one sentence. One cannot even explain some of his social life or the physical aspect of his life. You see, a person who was the caliph of the Muslims and in charge of their affairs led a very simple life. While caliph, he did not have any spare clothes because he gave what he had to the poor. He had no other clothes except the ones he was wearing. Therefore, when he was going to lead the Friday prayers, he would wash his only clothes and wave them on the way to dry them. He had only one suit. He used to patch his own shoes. And when he was asked: How valuable are these shoes to you? he said: They have no value at all and to be the caliph, and having the status of a ruler over you, in my view has no value either, less value than these shoes, unless I can manage to implement justice. Where else can one find such an example of a caliph's lifestyle?

His Holiness Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, was in fact part of the meek of the earth. He was so even among the Shi'ites [as heard]. When they want to praise Imam 'Ali, they say things that are not true and are in fact an insult to his holiness. For instance, they say: When Imam 'Ali donated a ring to a poor man, the price of that ring was equal to all the taxes collected from the Governorate of Damascus. How could someone with the sort of clothes mentioned earlier wear a ring so valuable? This is a lie even if it is written (?in a book). That is how they talk of Imam 'Ali's virtues. Even those believers who praise Imam 'Ali and talk about his good characteristics repeat stories said by the Dervish [group of Muslims devoted to Imam 'Ali].

No one knows the facts and, unfortunately, any record of his holiness's virtues have been distorted due to ignorance of the past. They have thought that by saying that Imam 'Ali had a valuable ring, they would praise him. His Holiness 'Ali had a very strange and amazing life. In that era, to be a caliph was a particularly important matter; the caliphs after Mu'awiyah were ruling with pomp and glory. In the same era, when Mu'awiyah was ruling with so much pomp, Imam 'Ali worked as a farmer while being caliph. He used to irrigate his fields and was an expert in calculating water needs. He used to do all his own work. This was his lifestyle.

We would not be able to imitate his lifestyle even if we tried. This is true; we cannot really imitate him. We are incapable. His holiness himself used to say that other people could be like him, but in reality we cannot do what he did. We can be pious, we can keep Almighty God in mind, but we cannot become like Imam 'Ali.

Thanks be to God, today our nation is enjoying a particularly high morale that is unprecedented all through history. Even during the time of Imam 'Ali and of the Prophet Muhammad, there was discord among the people, and those living then would not go to war when they asked to do so. Whereas today the people volunteer to go to war. The mistake that Westerners and our opponents make today is that they think that when they talk of missiles, the people of Iran will be frightened. They fired missiles, killed and destroyed people's houses, but the people are staying where they were and are laughing.

You do not frighten the people of Iran with missiles. Some people of Iran, who think it is an honor to gain the status of martyrdom—and often when people come here one is amazed by the high morale—have lost a young son. The son has been martyred and they still refer to their small child by saying: God willing, this one will grow up to be martyred too. The women have the same morale. The enemies are trying to frighten this martyrdom-seeking people. This people who are seeking martyrdom! This is a mistake which they do not understand. [Words indistinct] Saddam and his ilk do not at all understand this morale. He can never compare his own situation with that of Iran. They think that by dropping missiles on Iran, it will immediately be defeated. Missiles make our people stronger. The main issue is that we will maintain our faith and our unity. By maintaining unity (?no army) can play any role, even if they fire missiles, even if (?Saddam comes), America comes, or the Soviet Union comes; it does not matter who comes.

Of course, our people will not forget when they see those who assist Saddam in committing these atrocities; our people will not forget this. The people will bear this in mind.

Those who wish to safeguard their own interests should note that they should act in a way (?different from this). Otherwise, their interests will not remain safe. Those who assist Saddam with cash and material think that their aid will frighten us. On the contrary, the nation of Iran is a martyrdom-seeking nation—be it martyrdom by missile, by rocket, or by artillery, it makes no difference. This is a martyrdom-seeking nation. It is not frightened of (?bombs). However, it will not forget who gave Saddam bombs and (?services), and who orders the Iraqis to do such deeds, what their motives are, who is directing them, who is assisting them, who gives them missiles, etc. Our people will not forget this. Those who do such things should take note of this.

I beseech Almighty God to strengthen our belief in Him. May He protect all Muslims and may He keep all the world Muslims and oppressed of the world immune from the evil of the infidels.

Reportage, Commentary on Bombing of Cities

Iraq Attacks Tehran, Hamadan

LD011814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] This afternoon the criminal Iraqi regime once again brutally targetted several other residential areas of Tehran and martyred or wounded several more of our compatriots. According to IRNA, enemy aircraft at 1630 and 1735 also invaded the airspace of Hamadan and Zanjan and bombed several nonmilitary areas. These attacks, fortunately, did not result in any casualties. The report says that during the day the airspace of Sanandaj, Esfahan, and several cities in Markazi Province were invaded by the war-mongering Iraqi regime's aircraft. As a result of their vigilance and timely action, the defensive units stationed in these regions forced the aggressors to retreat before destroying anything.

3d Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD012105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has issued a statement announcing: In response to the wicked deeds of the Zionist Iraqi regime in its attacks against our country's residential areas, at 2125 hours and 2126 hours on Tuesday night two surface-to-surface missiles were aimed and fired at two military centers in Baghdad by the IRGC Air Force missile unit. The firing of missiles at Iraqi cities, excepting the four holy cities of that country, will continue with intensity and power. The fighters of Islam in continuing their retaliatory actions will foil the brutal deeds of the criminal rulers of Baghdad. The latest report received states that a third surface-to-face missile was aimed and fired by the IRGC Air Force missile unit at the training center of the guards forces of the Iraqi Republic in the city of Baghdad.

4th Missile Fired at Baghdad

NC020559 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Before reading the summary of the news, I wish to draw your attention to a statement issued by the IRGC General Staff a few minutes ago.

In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. In answer to the savage acts by the criminal regime ruling Baghdad and after the firing of three surface-to-surface missiles at 2125 [1755 GMT], 2126 [1756 GMT] and 2333 [2003 GMT] last night at two military centers and the Iraqi Republic Guards' Training Center, the IRGC Air Force's missile unit fired a fourth missile at the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime's governmental building complex at 0600 [0230 GMT] today.

The retaliatory acts by the soldiers of Islam and the attack on Iraqi cities, with the exception of the four safe cities, will continue with intensity and power in order to deter the criminal rulers of Iraq from their savage acts.

Damage From Iraqi Attacks Noted

LD020739 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—As the silence of the international community on Baghdad's war crimes continue, the Iraqi regime renewed its missiles attacks on residential areas in Tehran last night and early this morning.

A number of residential units including a medical office were damaged and 15 civilians were wounded in these attacks. Eight of the injured received outpatient treatment. There were eight women, including an 80-year-old one, as well as five kids among the injured.

Interviewed by Irna, those injured condemned these Iraqi crimes saying there were asleep at the time of the explosion.

Iraq Bombs Village Near Rasht

LD020818 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Gilan Province, in northern Iran last night and bombed a village near its capital, Rasht. Five villagers were martyred and four others wounded in the attack.

Iraqi Missile Hits Qom

LD021134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] On the birthday of the lord of the pious, Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, the Iraqi Zionist regime today made the holy city if Qom, where the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumah [Imam Reza's sister] is located, the target of a missile attack. Fortunately, today's missile attack by the Zionist enemy on the holy city of Qom did not result in any casualties.

Velayati Sends Letter to UN

LD291150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Following the resumption of attacks on Iranian residential areas, and the start this morning of the war of cities by the Zionist regime of Iraq, Foreign Minister Velayati sent a letter to the UN secretary general.

In a part of the letter, which was handed to the UN secretary general by the Iranian representative in New York, it is said: Mr Secretary General, as you know, the aggressor regime of Iraq, in continuation of its aggression against Iranian cities, civilian, and residential areas, and contravening all international standards and regulations, especially the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 12 June 1984 agreement, has stepped up its beastly attacks during the past few days, martyring or injuring more innocent people in the cities.

In the course of these attacks, particularly on 27 February, in addition to violating the airspace of Bakhtaran, Lorestan, Ilam, and Azarbayjan Bakhtari Provinces, air raids on Tehran, Saqqez, Hamadan and Dezful, and bombing civilian and residential areas in those cities, the Iraqi regime martyred or injured a number of innocent citizens in Iranian cities.

Mr Secretary General, by stating these facts, and while drawing the attention of the United Nations and other international organizations to the continued acts of aggression by the aggressor Iraqi regime, incited and constantly enjoying the support of the U.S. Government to make up for that country's disgraceful defeat in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic of Iran hereby asks you, as the secretary general of the United Nations, to take immediate measures to prevent the continuation and increase of the beastly Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities.

Mr Secretary General, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I deem it necessary, while reiterating Iran's regard for international standards and regulations, to declare to the United Nations that Iran's retaliatory measures were taken only to prevent the Iraqi regime from further attacking residential areas and resorting to new mischiefs. If quick action is not taken by this organization to halt the attacks by the aggressor regime of Iraq on our cities, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no alternative but to continue to retaliate by attacking Iraqi economic, industrial, and military centers in response to the wishes of the families of those martyred or injured in repeated, savage Iraqi attacks, by way of legitimate defense.

No doubt, in such a case, the responsibility for the danger to peace and security in the region and the world will directly fall on the Iraqi regime, and the protector and instigator of that aggressor, the United States.

Velayati Cables UN on Attacks

LD011111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Following the increase in attacks by the Zionist regime of Iraq on our country's residential districts, the country's foreign minister has sent a message to the UN secretary general. In part, the message elaborates on the savage attacks by the regime ruling over Iraq on residential districts including a hospital, which resulted in some of our compatriots being martyred or wounded.

The message says: The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that in accordance with and respect for international principles and regulations, particularly the agreement of 12 June 1984, it opposes all attacks on residential and civilian areas. These attacks have been initiated and continued by Iraq. In each case the matter has been reported to the United Nations and his excellency has been called upon to take immediate preventative measures to stop these savage attacks. However, the world has repeatedly witnessed that although bound by duty, the United Nations has been unable to reduce, let alone stop, these crimes of the Iraqi regime which reject all international regulations and principles. Thus, victims of aggression have lost hope of this organization ever being able to carry out its main duty: to prevent aggression and restore peace and security.

Your excellency is expected to take immediate measures to stop Iraq's attacks on civilian and residential areas. Otherwise, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no doubts regarding the United Nations's inability to do anything positive in this connection. Naturally, the United Nations will no longer have any credibility in world public opinion. Obviously, the Islamic Republic of Iran, contrary to its instinctive inclinations, will have to take retaliatory and preventative steps in order to make Iraq regret ever having attacked residential areas. In that case, the responsibility for jeopardizing regional and international peace will lie directly with the United Nations, which is supposed to be the guardian of peace and security in the world, and with the Iraqi regime's persistent supporters, especially the United States.

Kharrazi Briefs Correspondents

LD011852 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—The Islamic Republic will severely retaliate the Iraqi regime's criminal attacks on residential areas in Iran, vowed head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi here Tuesday.

The WIH head, addressing a televised conference attended by foreign and domestic reporters here said, "the Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iranian cities including the capital will never change the current balance of power."

"We have identified these old missiles used by the Iraqi regime and know which country has given them to Iraq," revealed Kharrazi.

Kharrazi, referring to the suspicious visits to Baghdad by an American delegation and British Foreign Minister David Mellor over the past two weeks, termed the savage Iraqi air raids on Iranian residential areas as a coordinated scheme hatched by the big powers, particularly the U.S. and Britain.

He said the objective behind the Iraqi attacks is not only to divert world public attention from the ongoing Muslim uprising in occupied Palestine, but also to exert pressure on Iran's Muslim people in the vain hope of forcing them to bow to dictates of big powers and Saddam's aggression, thus paving the way for the passing of a second UN Security Council resolution calling for arms embargo on Iran with the assistance of the U.S. and Britain.

Iraq's false claims of domestically manufacturing these ground-to-ground missiles capable of hitting Tehran, its allegation of Iranian air raid on Qal'at Dizah town are all aimed at misportraying Islamic Iran as the initiator of the so-called war of cities, said the WIH head.

But, he noted, the realities reflected to the world very well indicate that the Islamic Republic was forced to retaliate following the Iraqi bombing of Tehran, Saqqez, Hamadan and Dezful.

The Iraqi regime by resuming its attacks on residential quarters in Iran is repeating the same mistake it has done several times in the past, he added.

Kharrazi, referring to today's visit of foreign reporters to a hospital in Tehran bombed by the Iraqi regime Monday evening, told reporters "you yourselves observed that 14 children and newborn babies in the hospital were wounded."

The WIH head said that the Iraqi regime has not only violated all international norms but has trampled upon all diplomatic regulations.

He also drew the attention of reporters to the fact that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime intentionally timed its raids with the three-day visit to Tehran by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

"Without any doubt," Kharrazi noted, "our Turkish brethren have realized the aggressive and war mongering nature of the Baghdad regime."

Kharrazi, asked about the number of Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran and the name of the country which has supplied missiles to Iraq, replied the Iraqis have announced that they fired 13 missiles so far at the capital. As for the origin of these missiles, he added, Iran will reveal the name of the country supplying Iraq with the missiles at an appropriate time.

Some 27 civilians have so far been martyred and 100 others wounded in the inhuman Iraqi attacks, the WIH head said, adding that most of the wounded were treated at hospitals for minor injuries and were later discharged.

Kharrazi, in response to a question on how long the war of cities might last, said that Iran is quite capable of stretching the war of cities initiated by Baghdad no matter how long it might last.

IRGC on Shelling Border Cities

NC020701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has issued a statement saying that since early last night all the military-economic installations in Iraq's border cities, including Basra, Al-'Amarah, Badrah, Zurbatiyah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, and 'Ali al-Sharqi, as well as other Iraqi centers and installations on the borders, were shelled by the long-range heavy artillery of the IRGC's Ground Forces.

Tehran Arabic on "War of Cities"

NC011849 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic and its wise leadership fully realize the motives behind the Ba'thist crusader regime's resumption of the war of cities. They also realize from which quarters the Zionist Ba'thist regime is taking orders to shell residential areas. They know which arsenals are providing this regime with its criminal tools.

The Islamic leadership has held its temper throughout this period of folly during which the retreating Saddamist forces committed their crimes in an effort to intimidate innocent women and children in their homes and schools. However, the 'Aflaqi regime persisted in its aggression and barbarity.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic's reply struck like a thunderbolt in the heart of the capital of the ruling Takriti clique to bring home the fact that Iran is capable of replying in the manner that it deems appropriate.

To prove its credibility before the vile Iraqi dictatorship, the Islamic leadership repeatedly warned the Iraqi Muslims to evacuate sensitive areas and Iraqi towns, except for the four holy cities. The Islamic leadership has thus

proved how deep its commitment is to Islamic morals in the most critical circumstances, while not forgetting to teach the Saddamist enemy an appropriate lesson at an appropriate hour.

Commentary Links Bombings, UN Moves

NC021125 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The new round of aggressions by the Zionist enemy against Iran's residential areas following the wave of massacres and tortures of the Muslim revolutionaries in occupied Palestine is yet another page in the book of crimes of world Zionism against Muslim nations. The Zionist character of this satanic act becomes clearer when we bear in mind the fact that the distance by air from Iraqi borders to Tel Aviv is only 400 km, that the distance from the Iraqi borders to Tehran is more than 550 km, that missiles recently placed at Saddam's disposal by the enemies of Islam have a range of up to 650 km, and the fact that Iraq could shell all Israeli cities with these missiles.

However, these missiles are aimed only at Tehran, the heart of the world Islamic revolution, at the same time that the Islamic revolution is gearing up in Palestine. Therefore, this act can only represent revenge against a revolutionary movement that has led to tempestuous waves throughout the region, the movement in occupied Palestine. Who can doubt the fact that Saddam's regime is a mere toy in the sinister puppet show of colonialism and has, on colonialism's orders, attacked a nation that led a revolution in the name of God and that is clinging to its territorial integrity and defending its identity, independence, freedom, and human dignity?

The timing of Saddam's new crime must also be pondered. These attacks did not begin while the fighters of Islam were carrying out liberation operations. On the contrary, these attacks were started and the flames of the beastly rage of the Zionist enemy were kindled at a time when the fronts were quiet. All this was timed to coincide with the defeat suffered by the Zionist enemy in trying to break the determination of the Muslim nations of Palestine and Lebanon.

By attacking the capital of the Islamic revolution, does the Zionist enemy want to plunge Muslim revolutionaries throughout the region into despair? Does the enemy not yet know that resistance, selflessness, and martyrdom for God, not dependence on iron and steel, lead to the consolidation of their determination? Has the enemy not yet understood the nature of the Islamic fervor of Muslim nations? To attack, under the cover of darkness, the believers in God on the eve of the new year [Iranian] and with the culmination of the Islamic movement in Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, and even Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], hoping that they will thus disperse these people who are wayfarers on the path of God, is villainous; it not a sign of courage.

The Zionist enemy's new attacks on Tehran also show the nature of the UN Security Council's motives. The Security Council, led by Britain and the United States, has been making inflammatory remarks for more than 1 year now. However, it has shown incompetence in naming the aggressor or, better still, acknowledging the crime of the aggressor. Throughout this year it has actually been asking Iran not to carry out acts against the enemy, as is our right, so that problems could be resolved through talks. Moreover, throughout this same year it has reorganized the Iraqi Air Force and suddenly doubled Iraq's missile strength. It has sent money, arms, ammunition, and manpower from Riyadh, Cairo, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Washington, and elsewhere, while also paying lip service to the quest for peace. The Security Council's quest for peace is exactly like the quest for peace of 'Amr ibn al-'As in the Siffin battle, in method, propaganda, and motive. Those who attach hope to such bloody and criminal quests for peace pave the way for more crimes by the enemy and more bloodshed and are undoubtedly not [Imam] 'Ali's friends. They are the enemies of 'Ali, 'Ali's path and ideals, and the divine ideal of the messenger of God.

O people of Iran: If we do not resist, our tomorrows will be like the yesterdays of the Palestinian nation. We will face a future filled with disgrace, slavery, and hardships. However, if we resist we will live respectably, even though our lives will be filled with struggle, epics, and sacrifice. This is the first message of 'Ali and the true meaning of the last drop of blood shed by Husayn.

Communique No 3,128 Details Recent Fighting

LD011804 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted eight commercial ships, tankers and tugboats in the Strait of Hormuz, Monday but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard, said a military communique released here Tuesday.

The 3128th communique of the joint Staff Command said Iranian Air Force planes carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, lending cover to the Navy. The Patrol missions ignored five warnings from intruding foreign fleets in the waterway.

On the war Fronts, Iran's Muslim combatants killed or wounded some 50 Iraqi troops Monday, subjecting enemy fortifications and installations to heavy artillery and mortar fire, said the communique adding that two munitions depots, two vehicles and an artillery piece of Iraqi forces were completely destroyed.

The communique said economic, industrial and military installations of Badrah and Al-Sulaymaniyah of Iraq were subjected Monday to Iran's heavy fire and sustained substantial damage.

In Sumar operational region, movements of Iraqi infantry forces and engineering activities of the enemy were completely checked yesterday.

Iranian armoured units yesterday silenced Iraqi tank fire in Panjwin and the region opposite Mehran northwestern and western fronts, briging armoured activities inf the enemy to a halt.

Enemy movement was also halted yesterday in the region opposite to Qasr-e Shirin and Tib-Zuheydah axes western sector. The enemy incurred heavy casualties and damage.

Iran's gendarmeric forces killed and wounded some Iraqi soldiers Monday setting afire several bunkers of the enemy, it concluded.

Chemical Bombing Kills 30, Injures 400 Kurds
LD0111738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] According to Ramadan Headquarters, center for the irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, the Iraqi regime, in continuing its antipeople policy of evacuating villages and forcibly transferring the Kurdish people of Iraq, over the past few days has savagely attacked the villages north of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq. In this onslaught, the Zionist Iraqi regime deployed 7 commando brigades, special forces, and more than 120 tanks and personnel carriers, backed by artillery, helicopters, and aircraft. The defenseless inhabitants of these villages were rolled in dust and blood. The Iraqi Zionist regime, in the course of this attack, deployed chemical bombs. More than 30 defenseless people were martyred and more than 400 others were wounded and poisoned, the majority of whom were Iraqi Kurdish women and children.

According to the report, peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, backed by units from Ramadan Headquarters resisted this attack. The Zionist Iraqi Army sustained substantial losses and casualties with more than 500 of their troops killed, more than 1,000 others injured, and 30 captured. During this struggle, the peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of the Iraqi Kurdistan, set afire tens of the enemy's heavy guns, heavy weapons, and several military vehicles. The report adds that the battle is continuing with [words indistinct].

Iraqi Muslims Attack Bases, Kill Troops
LD0211148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, in the course of the last few days the Iraqi Islamic Hezb-e ol-Da'wi fighters, by attacking the Darish garrison in the environs of Iraq's city of Al-'Amadiyah, killed or wounded a number of enemy troops. In addition, a quantity of the enemy's equipment was set ablaze and destroyed in that garrison.

The Iraqi Islamic Hezb-e ol-Da'wi forces, by attacking two enemy bases in the (Golibash) region in Irbil Province in Iraq, also destroyed and set ablaze these two bases, as well as killing or wounding all the personnel stationed there. According to this report, following the Saddamist mercenaries' attack on the (Niasm) region and their defeat, Colonel Tariq 'Aziz, commander in chief of the Khalifah forces of the enemy's local mercenaries in northern Iraq, was killed along with his deputy and his guards.

Majlis Official on 'Recent' U.S. Visits to Area
LD0111824 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—The latest crime of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in resuming attacks on residential areas are no doubt sanctioned by the world arrogance, said Majlis vice-speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi here Tuesday.

The recent visits by U.S. and British officials to Baghdad and the region, back this claim he added.

The secret accord of the two superpowers on the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan also confirms that the Ba'thist regime was ordered by its masters to perpetrate these crimes against Islamic Iran, he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi noting it is not the first time the Iraqi regime has attacked residential areas including hospitals, warned the enemies to be aware that such criminal acts would not have the least effect on the firm determination of Iranian Muslims to punish the aggressor.

The start of its criminal acts by the Iraqi regime is related to developments in the UN Security Council, said Hoj. Yazdi adding, any resolution which ignores the denunciation and punishment of the aggressor will be rejected outright by the leadership and people of Islamic Iran.

The Baghdad regime, by resuming its so-called war of cities, intends to distract world attention from the Muslim uprising in occupied Palestine which has greatly perturbed the U.S., noted the Hojjat ol-Eslam. The Islamic movement in Palestine will not come to a halt whatever the plots and pressures, he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Yazdi referring to certain countries' support for the Iraqi regime made it clear that the clues found by Iranian officials leave no doubt from where Baghdad acquired the weapons it used in its attacks late Monday and early Tuesday on Tehran.

The effect, such evil support would have on relations with Islamic Iran and the country which supplied Iraq these arms cannot be ignored, and the Muslim combatants will firmly respond to the Iraqi regime's crimes vowed the Majlis speaker.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Afghan Talks

NC020643 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on the indirect talks between Pakistani officials and the Kabul regime on the Afghanistan issue beginning today in Geneva under the supervision of the UN secretary general's special representative. The statement describes the talks as merely an effort to comply with recent accords between the superpowers on the Afghanistan issue. We invite our dear listeners to listen to a (?report) on this statement.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran declares: The Muslim Afghan nation is now going through one of the most sensitive phases of its history. More than 8 years have passed since the military intervention by the Soviet Army in Afghanistan and more than 9 years since the establishment of a puppet regime in Kabul. The superpowers have started new manouvers to achieve a compromise between themselves, making the (?oppressed) Afghan nation their scapegoat. These overtures once again (?remind one) of [words indistinct] (?accords). All these moves point to the fact that the indirect talks between Pakistani officials and elements of the Kabul regime (?are merely) aimed at fulfilling (?what) the two superpowers have agreed to during the past few months.

The Muslim Afghan nation has, in the course of its continuous struggle against the dependent Marxist regime and the occupying forces [words indistinct] (?its Islamic, independence-seeking struggles) and has proven that it is determined, by gaining the right to determine its destiny, to build the future of that country on the basis of Islam.

During the past 9 years the Muslim Afghan nation has endured many sufferings and (?problems) and has proven that it will not allow the superpowers to determine its future through plots and behind-the-scene talks, a future which (?does not conform) with the objectives of this brave nation. Meanwhile, the realization of the superpowers' agreement between themselves will make the superpowers think that in the future the (?destiny) of [words indistinct] nations can also be the plaything of their struggle and [words indistinct].

Since the crisis in Afghanistan began and after the intervention by the Soviet Armed Forces, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently stressed that the only solution to the problem will be effected by the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, the cessation of foreign intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, and the recognition of the right of the Afghan nation to determine its destiny in terms of its domestic and foreign policy positions.

We have refused from the outset to attend the talks organized by the UN secretary general's representative in Geneva because first, the Muslim Afghan mujahidin who are the true and involved side of the issue have been ignored and excluded from these talks concerning their destiny; and second, one of the sides in these talks is a regime that came to power during the period of occupation and is thus illegal. Compromise with a regime not supported by the Afghan nation and which owes its continued existence to the presence of foreign forces is (?logically and legally) pointless, leading only to the recognition of an impermanent regime lacking competence. Therefore, because the true representatives of the Muslim Afghan people are not participating in the new round of talks and because these talks have been rejected by all the Afghan mujahidin groups, we must conclude that such talks cannot find a comprehensive and lasting solution of the Afghanistan issue. It is likely that these talks will place unwanted and new difficulties and conflicts before the Muslim Afghan people and add to the sufferings of this oppressed nation.

From Iran's point of view, the crux of the Afghanistan issue lies in the presence of foreign powers and the imposition of a dependent regime on the people of that country. As long as these two basic problems exist, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its steadfast support for the Muslim and fraternal nation of Afghanistan, believing that the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces and the formation of a rule [words indistinct] the true representatives of the Muslim Afghan nation approved by the mujahidin and emigrants in Pakistan and Iran will pave the way for a comprehensive and lasting solution to the problem and for the voluntary and respectable repatriation of refugees.

Cabinet Affirms Support for Afghan People

LD2814444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met this morning under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Mohtashami. After reviewing domestic and foreign events, the Interior Ministry's election officials submitted a report on their efforts to organize and plan the elections for the third term of the Majlis next spring. [passage omitted]

The session also discussed a Foreign Ministry report about the latest developments in Afghanistan. While warning about the plots hatched against Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity at this sensitive stage of the history of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, the Cabinet emphasized Iran's decisive support for the justice-seeking struggles of the mujahidin and the unhappy Muslim people of Afghanistan. The Cabinet meeting declared: Until the rights of the Muslim people

of Afghanistan, taking their fate in their own hands, are attained, and until a popular and independent government comes into power in that country, we will not desert the mujahidin and the people of Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Meets PRC Representative

LD011232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the head of the Chinese Institute for Contemporary International Relations has met with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting, the Chinese representative commented on the tension-creating operations of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf. He said: We seriously oppose the imposition of hegemonistic policies by the superpowers. China supports those countries in the region that are trying to unite. He added: In our view, regional affairs should always be handled by the countries of that region and not by any of the superpowers.

Mr Velayati then elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's policies in the Persian Gulf. He said: We want the Persian Gulf region to be calm and we have announced repeatedly that no ship should be attacked in the Persian Gulf. The security of the Persian Gulf should be in the hands of the countries of the region. Mr Velayati referred to the good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, and expressed his satisfaction over the continued expansion of these relations.

Velayati Receives Message From Italy's Andreotti

LD010432 Tehran IRNA in English 0430 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Italian Ambassador to Tehran Vittorio Amadeo Farinelli met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday and submitted him a message from Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. Bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were discussed in the meeting.

IRGC Minister Rafiqdust on Arms Industries

LD291727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] According to IRNA, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, in an interview today to Turkish correspondents, referred to the resumption of the war of the cities by the Iraqi Zionist regime. He said: We warn Iraq not to resort to the war of the cities because we will retaliate strongly.

Concerning the U.S. attempt to impose an arms embargo on Iran, Mr Rafiqdust said: It is too late now for the United States to think about an arms embargo. Everyone knows that this is only a political gesture. Should this embargo materialize, it will have no effect on the war. We have even announced that we are prepared to give weapons to any country that intends to fight against the United States.

Concerning the provision and manufacture of weapons inside the country, he said: In view of the world's embargo on the sale of sophisticated weapons to Iran, we began our own arms industries, and we are nearly self-sufficient in meeting 80 percent of our war requirements. In other sectors, we will meet our requirements in the near future.

He added: We have begun speedy work on sophisticated weapons, and at present several missile types have reached the mass production phase, and two planes are currently being manufactured.

IRGC Minister Addresses Infantry Course

LD281852 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—The painful scene of Palestinian Muslims being tortured by Zionist troops regretfully did not arouse any wide-scale reaction even though it was televised in over 60 countries, said minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust here today.

"In fact humanity and honour seems to be dead in today's world," he added.

The IRGC minister made the remarks at the passing ceremony of the fifth intensive training course of the infantry center of the IRGC ground forces.

"We should manufacture weapons and train elite forces for liberation of holy al-Quds," he said adding the oppressed world is watching the Islamic Republic with hopeful eyes.

On reason for global arrogance's all out support for Saddam (Husayn), Rafiqdust said the victory of the Islamic revolution will definitely jeopardize all vested interests and endanger lackeys in the region.

He stressed that Iranian people will resist against blasphemy and oppression to the last drop of their blood and will not be satisfied until final victory.

Also present at the ceremony were Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council Major General Qassemali Zahirnezhad, commander of gendarmerie forces Brigadier General Mohammad Sohrabi [names as received] as well as a group of IRGC and army commanders.

Malekzadegan Interviewed on Gulf Situation

LD291330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 29 Feb 88

[From the "Armed Forces" program]

[Excerpts] A correspondent has interviewed Commodore Malekzadegan, esteemed commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, on developments in the Persian Gulf and the performance of the vigilant men of the Navy in the region.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] In the name of God. With many thanks to you, recently the world heard news of the departure of a number of foreign warships from the Persian Gulf. How do you view this open retreat by great powers from their former stands?

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah and praise to the pure souls of martyrs. Greetings to the heroic and brave Iranian nation. The reason behind the retreat of foreign vessels from the Persian Gulf is the power and resistance shown throughout the period and the region by the Iranian Navy. This is very clear. As you remember, when those fleets were dispatched here, it was announced that this was done to restore security to the Persian Gulf region. They recently declared that to ensure security in the region they would withdraw their vessels. This conflicting approach is not due to their wish to leave voluntarily but to the Navy and its method of dealing with the fleets in the region.

You observed the sort of damage they received to their seaborne units, helicopters, personnel, and the financial cost they suffered. Praise to God, not only did we escape damage but our capability was heightened and we became more powerful, so much so that we can confront threats, potential and real, and, praise to God, we have been very successful in this venture.

[Correspondent] Can you comment on the Navy's performance at this sensitive juncture when the extensive presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf has lasted for months, and the crisis is intensifying in the region?

[Malekzadegan] The Navy has been able to discharge its duties in a competent manner. Our escort vessels, merchant vessels, and oiltankers, and our defense of communications lines have been 100 percent successful. We carried out all the Islamic Republic of Iran's wishes to bring imports to the region, in accordance with its own views, via any port required or requested. All the government's export needs were met. This refers to our escort duties. Therefore, I note that our escort duty has been very successful. We carried out special missions, as well as our own to clear the region of mines and to defend islands and ports. We fulfilled other tasks, which will be discussed at an opportune time.

This year the Navy registered the highest number of days at sea, higher than ever before in our history. Furthermore, our airborne units clocked an extremely high number of flight hours. [passage omitted] Our self-sufficiency jihad of the first zone [as heard] has built a tug, which is more than 90 percent ready. This vessel will satisfy our needs for towing relatively heavy vessels and other nautical services. We hope to see more of the same next year. [end recording]

Further on Visit of Turkish Prime Minister

Musavi Interviewed on Ties

TA261436 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1430 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran (AA)—Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hosayn Musavi told AA that the Turkish-Iranian relations should not be under the influence and pressure of the United States and NATO, and should be based upon common cultural, historical ties and mutual interests of the two peoples.

Answering questions of AA, prior to the visit of Premier Turgut Ozal to Tehran and Baghdad, the Iranian premier said that the Turkish premier's visit was not of a mediatory nature.

Stressing that his country had announced from the beginning that the war would not end unless the aggressor side is declared by official channels, Mr. Musavi said that the issue was being reviewed with Turkish brothers in detail.

Denying reports that Syria prepared a seven-item peace plan to end the war, the Iranian minister said that "I do not expect Syria to prepare such a plan."

He went on to say that Iran's relations with the countries in the region started to improve, after foreign forces started to withdraw from the Gulf.

"As these countries took steps for dialogue with Iran, we can establish friendly relations with them, as with Pakistan and Turkey."

On the Cyprus issue and the situation of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, Mr. Musavi said: "We want peace and agreement be reached in the island, both to the benefit of Turkey and the region." Stressing that his country defended the rights of all Muslims in the world, he added that during talks with Bulgarian officials, they told them that forcible change of beliefs and cultures was in no way acceptable.

On a question about the Iranian-Turkish oil pipeline project, Mr. Musavi said that his country had no objection to the erection of the pipeline and the cabinet had taken up the issue.

Stressing that further talks were necessary on the economic and technical aspects of the project, he added that it was important to continue the favourable atmosphere between the two countries.

Musavi Comments on Relations

NC010924 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 27 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] Tehran (A.A.)—Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi has said that Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visits to Tehran and Baghdad should not be regarded as an initiative aimed at mediation. Musavi added that the war will not end until Iraq is declared the aggressor and penalized. He said: "Mr Ozal is aware of our stand. In view of our neighborly relations and wide-ranging contacts with Turkey, we can discuss this matter in a more detailed, open way with our Turkish brothers." Noting that Iran did not object to the laying of an oil pipeline between the two countries, Musavi asserted that Iranian officials "believe the economic and technical aspects of the project should be discussed further."

Prime Minister Musavi replied to questions put to him by A.A. prior to Turgut Ozal's arrival in Tehran. His views on various issues follow:

1. The war: I do not believe reports that Syria will be drawing up a seven-point plan. As foreign forces withdraw from the Gulf, Iran's relations with the Arab countries in the region will improve. These countries have made moves to establish a rapprochement and dialogue with Iran. Just as we did with Turkey and Pakistan, we can establish friendly relations with these countries.

2. Turkish relations with the United States and NATO: We have discussed this matter openly and sincerely with our Turkish brothers. We have said that relations between Iran and Turkey must not be determined in accordance with Turkey's relations with the United States. Nor should they be determined on the basis of the CENTO organization, which was set up under U.S. influence. Relations between Turkey and Iran must not be influenced by the United States and NATO. Such independence has been achieved over the past few years. The two countries understand each other well.

3. Cyprus and Bulgaria: Iran supports a peaceful agreement for the island which will be auspicious for the region and for Turkey. We support the interests of Muslims throughout the world. We have told the Bulgarians that we shall object to any effort to change forcibly the faith and culture of Muslims in any country.

4. Terorism: Turkey and Iran are being targeted because of their geographic locations. Therefore, the two countries must cooperate to establish security on their common borders and to obstruct drug trafficking. Furthermore, neither country must allow groups to carry out antigovernment activities against the other on its soil.

5. Pipeline: Iran does not object to the laying of a pipeline between the two countries. Both countries have reached an agreement, and the Iranian Council of Ministers has discussed the matter. However, I believe the economic and technical aspects of the project should be discussed further. I do not mean that we shall definitely sign the agreement on the project, because if we fail to do so, then there may be disappointment between the two countries.

Musavi Comments on Talks

LD011153 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the visit of the Turkish prime minister by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 1 March--recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you please give us your views about Turgut Ozal and the Turkish prime minister's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. His excellency, Turgat Ozal, visited our country as a part of our annual program. We conducted friendly talks during this visit about political and economic issues. As you observed, we signed notes of understanding which provide for trade exchanges between Turkey and Iran in the course of the coming year at a value of $1.8 billion. We have come to an understanding on an oil and gas pipeline. This will be studied and work on it will continue carefully. The note of understanding in this connection was signed by our minister of oil and by the Turkish minister of planning, Mr Yusuf Ozal. Another note of understanding was previously signed by Mr Nabavi and Mr Yusuf Ozal.

Besides these meetings we held talks in connection with political issues in the region and about mutual relations. Naturally, we explained our positions on regional and world issues, world organizations, and the war. Mr Ozal in turn explained his position.

All in all, we believe that the visit was very successful. Since yesterday, in the last part of their visit, the gentlemen witnessed Saddam's wickedness from close quarters and also witnessed the morale of the people of Tehran. They saw how people are standing firm in the face of all this chaos. I think this in itself has added to the success of this trip.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Rafiqdust on Hostile Activities

TA291430 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust has announced that Iran will not allow any anti-Turkish activities in its territory. In a news conference for Turkish newsmen covering Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit in Tehran, Rafiqdust said that Iran respects agreements with other countries and so far attacks from the Iranian border against Turkey have not been allowed. Rumors to this effect have never been proved, the Iranian minister remarked.

In reply to a question concerning the oil pipeline between Iraq and Turkey, Rafiqdust noted that this pipeline is in a (?transit) area, which is not under Iran's jurisdiction. He pointed out that Iran takes Turkey's interests into account on this issue, not wanting to undermine the interests of a friendly country. Rafiqdust noted, however, that it must be recalled that anything can happen under conditions of war.

Rafiqdust explained that Iran's military force increased considerably compared with previous years and that although unable to purchase advanced weapons from abroad, his country is now capable of meeting 80 percent of its needs. The IRGC minister reiterated his country's conditions for a cease-fire. These conditions are that Iraq be declared the aggressor and be punished, and that Iran's rights be guaranteed. Rafiqdust added that Iranian hajj candidates will go to Mecca again this year and that no power can prevent this.

Ozal Warns of Civilian Targets

TA011213 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said that he did not approve of attacks on civilian targets in the war between Iran and Iraq. He advised both parties to avoid such moves.

According to a report by Ahmet Cetin Yenen from the Turkish Radio and Television Center, Ozal called on Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran this morning for talks. Ozal, who concluded his official talks there today, is en route to Turkey.

The protocol on the Turkish-Iranian Joint Economic Committee talks and a letter of understanding for the construction of a crude oil pipeline between Iran and Turkey were signed in Tehran. State Minister Yusuf Ozal, Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, and Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh signed the agreements for Turkey and Iran, respectively.

Meanwhile in a statement on his visit, Ozal said that the volume of trade between the two countries was expected to reach $1.8 billion in 1988.

Interviewed Before Departure

LD011146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Mr Turgut Ozal, the prime minister of Turkey, who came to Iran at the invitation of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, left Tehran this morning and was seen off by Prime Minister Musavi, state and military officials, and the two countries' ambassadors and charges d'affaires. Before departure, the prime minister of Turkey, in an interview with our correspondent on the results of his visit, said:

This is the third time that I have visited Iran at the invitation of my brother, Prime Minister Musavi, and in Tehran a joint session of the bilateral commission was held and two protocols on the sixth session of the two countries' (?economic) cooperation commission and on the construction of oil and gas pipelines were signed. On this basis the volume of transactions between the two countries was fixed at $1.8 billion, and it was agreed that the two countries' experts should continue their joint studies. The projects will be implemented after going through the final stages of preparation.

He added: During this visit, in addition to holding talks with Prime Minister Musavi, I met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and President Khamene'i.

The prime minister of Turkey said: We held talks on the war and regional issues. I hope that this war will end in an honorable manner as soon as possible. Turkey will sincerely employ all its efforts to end this war. However, we do not control the future and we do not know what will happen. We hope that this war will end favorably, beneficially, and honorably.

The prime minister of Turkey added: In addition to bilateral ties, the two countries exchanged views on regional global issues. I hope such exchanges of views will continue in future. At this point I invite Prime Minister Musavi to visit Turkey in the near future so that we can continue our talks. Once again, we announce that we hope the war will end to enable us to do what we can; and after the termination of the war we can have greater cooperation.

In reply to a question by our correspondent on the evil deeds of the Saddam regime last night and this morning which shed the blood of innocent children and women, and the fact that the Iraqi regime continues its atrocities which you yourself witnessed, at least for the sake of your excellency's honor the Saddam regime should have refrained from committing this crime [as heard] and what is your position, as the head of Turkey's government, pn this? The prime minister of Turkey said: Basically it is not a good idea to attack cities and people who are not part of the war. We do not approve such deeds. We hope no other country will resort to this and will refrain from attacking civilian and residential areas.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Argentina

For Argentine reportage on the visit to Argentina by Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, including his meeting with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, see the Argentina subsection of the South America section of the 2 March Latin America DAILY REPORT.

Prosecutor General Outlines New Assembly's Role

PM011425 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Feb 88 p 14

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha, the prosecutor general, by unidentified IRNA correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha, prosecutor general and member of the newly formed assembly to determine government legislation, was interviewed by IRNA. He discussed that assembly's role with regard to religious regulations and the country's laws and its relations with the jurisconsult, the Council of Guardians, and the three powers. He also talked about its formation and the way it will act on various plans and bills.

He said: Ministries, the Cabinet, the Supreme Judicial Council, or members of the Majlis set about preparing bills in accordance with needs that arise in society. The bills are then drafted by experts from a ministry and, after much discussion, are sent to the Cabinet. The minister concerned gives details about the proposed bill at a Cabinet meeting and, following approval by the Cabinet, the bill is then prepared for presentation to the Majlis. The Majlis then hands the bill to the appropriate committee for further study. The members of the committee examine the bill according to their specialized subjects and, if need be, they seek advice from relevant experts.

Mr Kho'iniha went on: It has happened in the past that, in addition to those in favor of a bill in a particular ministry, there are also those within that ministry who oppose the bill. These opponents find their way into the Majlis committee and give reasons for their opposition to the proposed bill. The committee examines all the pros and cons and, if it believes that the bill will benefit the country, it is approved. This is the fourth step. In the first step, the ministry prepared the bill, in the second it is approved in the appropriate Cabinet committee, in the third it is approved by the Cabinet itself, and in the fourth stage the Majlis committee approves it.

After that the proposed bill goes to the Majlis itself, where a quorum of the deputies must be present. The deputies hear all the points for and against the proposed bill put forward by the deputies themselves, or by the appropriate ministry defending the bill. Anything against the bill is brought out, anything good is also brought out and, finally, the people's representatives vote on the bill, so that it can be implemented as a law that will benefit society. There is also discussion on the details of the bill to ensure that it is in accord with the country's existing regulations and religious principles.

The prosecutor general summarized:

In general, when a bill is passed, it benefits society. From there it goes to the Council of Guardians. The imam has specified, in his message ordering the formation of the assembly to determine government laws, that as far as he is concerned, after a bill has passed through all these steps, under the supervision of experts, there is no need for this final step—review by the new assembly. This means that the bill, after going through five or six steps, being examined by experts the whole time, then goes to the Council of Guardians. The Council, in accordance with its duties, decides on the bill passed to it by the Majlis.

It is not the Council of Guardians' duty to decide whether or not the bill will benefit the country. That has nothing to do with the Council, and so its view on this aspect of the bill is of no value. The only duty the Council of Guardians has is to ascertain if the proposed bill accords in every detail with religious principles and the Constitution. That is all it has to say. Whether or not the bill is good for the country does not fall under the purview of the Council of Guardians.

When I was in the Majlis the first time around, some members of the Council at times used to say that a bill passed through the Majlis and then sent to them—although it did contradict any religious priniciples—would not benefit society. They said: It is for us to decide whether it is good for the people. I would add here that, even if they did say that the bill would be of no benefit, their view would be worthless, because the Majlis would have passed the bill and considered it as beneficial for the country.

The prosecutor general added: So it is not up to the Council of Guardians to decide what is good or bad. The people should not be confused when the government and the whole Majlis approve a bill and then it is rejected by the Council of Guardians. The answer is that all those experts in the government and in the Majlis consider the bill as beneficial for the nation, whereas the Council of Guardians asks them to consider religious principles on the one hand and the Constitution on the other. They could say that part or all of a bill does not accord with religious principles, or that it contradicts the Constitution. At this point the bill has to go back to the Majlis.

He said: Two things can happen in the Majlis. Sometimes it removes or amends the parts of the law that are rejected by the Council of Guardians, without damaging the context and the nature of the bill. The Majlis says: It does not matter to us. To satisfy the Council, we arrange the parts that are against religious principles in such a way that they no longer oppose religious law. In cases where a bill contradicts the Constitution, we make

changes so that it accords with the Constitution and is at the same time acceptable to the Council of Guardians, as well as serving our purposes too.

In the midst of all this there are laws which go through all the stages I have mentioned and, when they reach the Council of Guardians, are found to have faults either because of religious principles or because of the Constitution. That the bill is returned to the Majlis. The Majlis then decides that, if it removes the faults, the amendments will destroy the entire purpose of the bill, which will no longer serve the purposes for which it was designed. This is the point where laws stagnate between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. The Council sees its duty in guarding the religious laws and the Constitution. The Majlis sees its duty in safeguarding the interests of society. In order to provide for society's needs, it sees that it has to pass those bills. This is where there have been some problems, and this is why the assembly to determine government legislation has been formed.

The whole duty of the assembly is to decide on those cases where there is a difference between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians with regard to a bill. What were we to do? Can we abandon the needs of a society? Can we say, when the Council of Guardians finds a fault, that we have to set the bill aside and forget the people's problems?

The prosecutor general said: If a bill considers only society's benefit, regardless of its agreement with religious principles or the Constitution as determined by the Council of Guardians, this would contradict the principles on which we have built the entire regime. The basis of the Islamic Republic regime is Islamic law and the safeguarding of religious principles. On the other hand, the Constitution forms the bond that exists between the people and the regime.

Here, the responsibility lies first with the leader. It is he who has to solve [illegible] problems in such cases. No one other than the lead[illegible] has [illegible]r to intervene in these problems. There i[illegible] body or person in the country capable c[illegible]g such issues, because they all have duties and solving such problems does not fall into any of the categories mentioned in the lists of their duties. If the leader does nothing to solve the matter, it means that the entire regime is indifferent or impotent when it comes to solving society's difficulties.

The leader's duty here is to note if there is an issue that no one is capable of solving within the framework of his duty. As jurisconsult, the leader gave the opinion that in general, when so many experts have given their thought and efforts to a bill, as far as religious principles are concerned it has no faults. That bill should then be regarded as a valid law and its implementation as a necessity. It should not be regarded as contradicting religious law.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha then added: The imam says that, for the sake of caution, so that—God forbid—there is no intrusion on Islamic regulations, there should be an assembly made up of people who are experts in terms of the duties imposed on them. A measure passed by this assembly would have the highest degree of guarantee, trust, and acceptability. Here I must add that the assembly to determine government legislation does not want to pass laws or take over the duties of the Council of Guardians. It does not want to displace the Council of Guardians or to limit the duties, responsibilities, and rights of the Majlis.

The prosecutor general stressed:

This assembly covers the areas in which there is a void. In reality, the assembly fills that void. It replaces neither the Majlis nor the Council of Guardians. It fills a void when the following occurs: When the Majlis passes a bill after the steps mentioned above and the Council of Guardians then finds some fault with it because of religious principles; if the jurisconsult says that the law is in society's interest and has to be implemented, the law itself becomes like a religious principle. This means that the law will then match religious regulations and, if that happens, the Council of Guardians will say that the law is all right and does not contradict Islamic principles.

The same law that the Council said was against Islamic rules, has to be implemented because the jurisconsult says so, as it is in the people's interest. This law then becomes acceptable in terms of religion, whereas before it was unacceptable within the bounds of religion. Once it is accepted within the bounds of Islam, the Council of Guardians will approve it, because the Council only rejects those laws which do not accord with religion.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha added: So we presume that, when the jurisconsult recognizes a law to be in the people's interest, it becomes acceptable to religion. Now, as the jurisconsult may not be able to oversee all these needs and laws, he has organized an assembly to determine whether laws passed by the Majlis are in society's interest.

The assembly to determine government legislation has direct contact with the leadership and in reality is a team of advisers and experts assisting the leader. In other words, instead of the leader himself expressing the opinion that this law passed by the Majlis is in the people's interest and must be implemented, it is this assembly—trusted by the leader—which makes the announcement.

The prosecutor general, who is a member of the assembly to determine government legislation, said: We in the assembly will never discuss a law which has not first been passed in the Majlis. The assembly does not devise laws or prepare plans itself. First, the bill has to go through the Majlis; then it must go through the Council of Guardians. If the Council decides that it has faults and the bill

goes back to the Majlis, and if the Majlis then decides that it cannot meet the Council of Guardians' requirements without harm to the Majlis and the government, then the bill comes to the assembly to determine government legislation.

Mr Musavi Kho'iniha then talked about Article 4 and Article 57 of the Constitution, which stress the Islamic nature of the country's laws, the separation of the three powers, and the fact that their actions must be under the supervision of the jurisconsult.

He then discussed the formation of the assembly and said: Titles have no roles here, except that the clergy from the Council of Guardians and the appropriate minister have to be members. For example, Mr Khamene'i is a member of the assembly in his own right, not as president. The same goes for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, regardless of his position as speaker of the Majlis.

When someone else becomes chief justice one day, it may happen that he will not be a member of the assembly.

He concluded: I have elaborated on this issue as a member of the assembly to determine government legislation because not enough has been said about it recently, and there maybe some questions in people's minds. There may be some who will abuse the issue and play on these questionable areas to say that the Constitution has been ruined, the power of the Majlis diminished, and the Council of Guardians overridden. They may say that there is now a third law-making body, and for this reason I wanted to make some points clear.

KEYHAN Editorial on New Assembly
PM011641 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
20 Feb 88 p 18

[Editorial by Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh: "Assembly To Determine the Islam of the Poor"]

[Text] Almost 2 weeks have past since the assembly to determine government laws was formed at the behest of the leader of the revolution. There has been little said about the importance of the work of this assembly or its effect on the revolution and the workings of various law-making bodies.

If one were to say that the execution of this demand is up to the members of this assembly, it is a correct demand. This author does not have the means to bring such issues under discussion; he is only expressing his view so that such matters are brought out into the open.

To understand correctly the directives of the leader, one needs to fully understand the philosophy and the need for their existence. Separating the leader's orders from the philosophy behind them would only cause more problems when the time comes to carry them out. Of course, this principle is true for many laws and decrees and to contradict them would render the laws and decrees useless. All of the imam's sayings are such that their logic and their nature speak for themselves and his order for the formation of the assembly to determine government laws is no exception. The imam mentions at least three main points in his directive. The first touches on the way laws build up and grow within the country's law-making bodies. He says: I feel that after passing through these stages under the supervision of experts, there is no need for this additional step—the formation of the assembly.

The second point, which is the main one, deals with the actual formation of this assembly in order to resolve differences that arise between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. The third point is that resistance in the face of what is best for the regime would mean victory for an American-type Islam over the Islam of the poor.

The importance of this point is obvious to all, although there are some who lack even such basic understanding. What the imam means by mentioning the possibility of victory for an American-type Islam versus the Islam of the oppressed is not meant to underline events in Hijaz or other countries. It is a timely warning for what is happening right under our noses, in this country. More important than this is the fact that the imam has not mentioned this danger before. This is the first time that we have become aware of this danger—within the directive for the formation of the new assembly. Therefore, the assembly's most urgent task is to analyze correctly the basis and necessities which have caused this warning to be issued. The philosophy of this analysis can be found among the lines of the imam's historic message to the pilgrims. Perhaps one can say with certainty that this issue is a continuation of the imam's message to the pilgrims.

He says: Without a doubt, the world-devourers are just as afraid of our people's martyrdom-seeking spirit as they are of the spirit of our Islamic economy which is geared toward the poor. Without a doubt, the more our country moves in the direction of eliminating poverty and supporting the poor, the more the world-devourers will lose hope in us and the more the peoples of the world will be attracted to Islam.

In any case, the new assembly has been given a vital task. To recognize what is best for the regime, which in itself is one of the foundation stones of the regime, cannot and should not wait, under any circumstances. Recognizing the urgent and vital needs of an Islamic society does not take second place to other issues or psychological pressure. The assembly to determine government laws cannot avoid entering the scene and cannot be shy and reluctant. As we said, delays in this issue would be irreparable.

Here, we will talk briefly about four points which can be mentioned in detail at a later, more opportune time:

1. Although the Constitution does not provide for the formation of such an assembly and there is no mention of the importance of its creation, there are logical reasons for its existence now, some 9 years since the revolution. Its formation with the participation of top officials indicates its historic mission. This assembly is, in fact, a team of advisers to the leader and acts within the leader's authority. Therefore, its existence does not defy the Constitution.

If it had been formed at the beginning of the revolution, there would have been no comparison to the present time when differences of opinion have grounded some very basic laws. This is why its formation at the present time has given it special sensitivity. Of course, we must admit that the formation of such an assembly at the present time was necessitated by the shortages and the shortcomings that we are now facing. It is the result of the wishes and aspirations that have not been realized. We believe that the reason we have not reached our goals quickly is not because of flaws in religions and Islamic law or because the Constitution is weak.

It is because of the more than necessary interferences of those who go overboard in the face of what is best for the Islamic society and the revolution and those who resist and try to cover up things. In order that public opinion will not think of this assembly as a mere formality, one has to analyze its mission and role in safeguarding the rights of the oppressed. This assembly, in accordance with the traditions of the leader and the just position of Islam, will always take the side of the oppressed, as opposed to the Islam of the rich.

The basis and ideology of the assembly are to safeguard the points raised by the imam in his message to the pilgrims, the charter of the revolution. He says: Giving extra points in words is not enough. All laws and regulations, in their thoughts and actions, must be executed in such a way as to benefit those who have suffered. Their interests should come before those who live in luxurious homes. From generation to generation, this holy movement and this struggle of the poor against the rich must remain. There must be an effort not to allow those who want to sell religion to the world to sully the image of our revolution—the image that is against oppression and poverty. They must not say that we support the rich.

We must accept that injustice is not the natural result of the revolution, but rather that it is a leftover for the severe antipopular structure of the shah's dependent economy. Some of the deviated thoughts go back to the corrupt roots of the past regime. These have caused economic problems, amassing of wealth, and uncontrolled inflation. The only thing that remains now is to act fast to make up for the damage.

2. The work of the assembly to determine government laws is not under the scrutiny of our people, but of the international body. The imam refers to this in his directive for the formation of the assembly when he mentions the assembly as a "picture depicting how we solve our problems." This stresses to the respected members of the assembly that they must keep in mind the interests of the Islamic society in an international framework, beyond geographic and political boundaries. They must analyze this in their cultural exchanges with regard to worldwide achievements. This means that events take on a global dimension and the Islamic regime becomes an effective member of the world's great caravan of civilization on the road to obtaining the latest experiences of the resisting masses fighting to gain their rights.

Islamic ideology and the strength in Shi'ite thought now face a historic test. To recognize what is best for society and its priorities will affect the results of this test more than anything else.

Because the legitimacy of the assembly no doubt will be accepted by the Council of Guardians, there then will be a healthy atmosphere in which to exchange views and votes. There no longer will be excuses, and good thoughts no longer will be labeled wrongly. The interests of the people will be better defined and determined. Of course, this means we will present a better example to the Islamic world.

3. Apart from the respected members of the Council of Guardians and the appropriate minister who will be present in the new assembly because of his job responsibility, other known faces have been selected to the assembly because of the degree of trust the leader has in their individual knowledge, piety, and thought. This shows that their actions must not be limited to their own fields. They must express their views with regard to all segments of society, from cultural matters to politics, from economics to foreign policy.

Another important point raised in the imam's directive is the importance he attaches to the experts in the executive branch, the legislative branch, the government, and the Majlis. He has recognized that views must be adequate—so much so that it would prevent the necessity of having such an assembly to begin with, except as a mere precaution. Keeping this point in mind, the existing mechanism for preparing and presenting a bill in the government and the Majlis has its own values and these values cannot be ignored or deemed unimportant in the assembly to determine to government laws. The best logic has been used to determine and recognize the needs of society and the whole point of the imam's word is this legitimacy.

4. The new assembly, because of its independence, is free to evaluate the laws and their good and bad effects. The imam's directive mentions this and it has been noted that other experts will be invited to further evaluate the

bills. The system also provides for the people to have access to the programs and discussions of the new assembly and for them to become familiar with its values.

To publish the criteria for recognizing what is best will undoubtedly increase the people's cultural and political growth as well as that of officials and Majlis deputies. The assembly will not make laws itself and will not impose laws and bills on the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, but the manner in which the assembly works will correct the various paths and will cause the country's law-making bodies to flourish.

Pakistan

AFP: 10 Killed, 12 Wounded in Afghan Bombing

BK011106 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, March 1 (AFP)-At least 10 people were killed and a dozen wounded when 14 Afghan aircraft bombed the Robat region bordering Pakistan and Iran, reports reaching here Tuesday said.

The Afghan jets first flew over Pakistan Monday [29 February], but were fired on by the Border Security Force and turned back, Pakistani officials said. On their return, they dropped several bombs on Robat, reports said.

The attack continued for 20 minutes, causing damage to 13 shops and five vehicles besides killing 10 people, including women and children. The injured are reported to have been taken to the nearby Iranian city of Zahedan for treatment.

The Afghan Air Force has recently stepped-up operations along the troubled regions on its borders with Iran and Pakistan, observers said.

Seven Afghan refugees were killed Friday in a similar incursion near south Waziristan, where many displaced Afghans are sheltered, reports said.

Spokesman on Declaration of Islamic Meeting

BK020406 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said that the views expressed at the Conference on Islamic Unity held recently in Islamabad and in its declaration reflect the views of individuals and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the government. The president expressed his readiness to inaugurate the conference because of his sincere personal interest in the unity of the Islamic world.

Sri Lanka

President Appeals to People To Halt Violence

BK280712 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0610 GMT 28 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 28 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lanka President J R Jayewardene yesterday called upon the people to give their fullest support to the government and the security forces to wipe out terrorism. He was addressing a public meeting after opening the shrine room of Thribummiikaramaya at Gintota in the Southern Province, according to today's 'SUNDAY OBSERVER'.

He said it was only the government that has the resources and it was the duty of the people if they wished to protect democracy and religion to rally round the government to get rid of this epidemic. He urged all sections of the people including the members of the Maha Sangha [Buddhist sect] and political leaders to join hands to eradicate what he described as an obstacle to the democratic way of life. He said that the left parties had already signed a pledge to fight terrorism. Only the SLFP is still hiding. "I think they will have to come out before long otherwise they will be destroying themselves."

The president also said that the people could assist the government to fight terrorism by providing the necessary information so that the government would in its turn do its duty by arresting and detaining the culprits.

He urged the people not to be frightened to give information they had. If terrorism was allowed to continue it was the people themselves who would lose.

Referring to the recent killings of Terrence Perera, Harsha Abeywardena and Vijaya Kumaranatunga, the president said those responsible for those murders had not yet been found.

A few months earlier there was a bomb explosion in parliament. Some of those responsible for it have been found and charges will be framed against them shortly.

He said that all religions, Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism have taught that nothing could be achieved by violence. He therefore urged that people should abhor violence and follow the nonviolent way in achieving their objectives.

Nominations for Council Elections Postponed

BK011440 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Nominations in respect of the provincial councils of the Northern, Eastern, Western, Central, and Southern Provinces have been postponed. An order to this effect under the public security ordinance has been

issued by President Jayewardene yesterday. Nominations as scheduled will take place in respect of the provincial councils of the Northwestern, North Central, Uva, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces between March 2d and 9th this year.

Tamil Newspaper Bombed by Suspected Militants

BK021136 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Suspected Tamil militants have bombed the EELANADU newspaper office in Jaffna. Officials said they have no report of casualties. They said a man armed with a pistol and two others carrying sacks of explosives dashed into the office yesterday and rounded up its staff of about 35. After ordering the workers to leave the two-storied building, the group set off the explosives. The newspaper [word indistinct] was damaged. EELANADU is one of the two Tamil dailies published in Jaffna and has a circulation of 10,000.

AFP: TULF Denies Order To Leave India

BK280612 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 28 (AFP)—Sri Lankas's main Tamil political party Sunday denied that it had been told to leave India where its top leaders have been living since 1983.

"I am not aware of it," Appapillai Amirthalingam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said by telephone from Madras, southern India. "I am in touch with the (Indian) External Affairs Ministry and haven't heard" an Indian diplomat's appeal that he (Mr. Amirthalingam) return to Sri Lanka, he added.

India's high commissioner (ambassador) here, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, told reporters Thursday that India had asked the TULF and other Tamil leaders in Madras to return to their country and "work among the people."

But Mr. Amirthalingam, a former leader of the opposition in the Sri Lankan parliament, said Sunday that he had received any such message from New Delhi. [sentence as received]

Indian officials here could not be immediately reached for comment.

The TULF leader, who has been sentenced to death by the dominant Tamil militant group in Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for his moderate views, said such a request, if made, would be discussed by his party's Politburo.

Mr. Amirthalingam and his colleagues in the TULF moved over to Madras after large-scale anti-Tamil violence hit Colombo in 1983. Madras is also home to leaders of all Tamil militant groups, including the LTTE.

8 Soldiers Killed in Army Camp Incident

BK020633 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0623 GMT 2 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 2 (LANKA PUWATH)—Eight Sri Lankan Army soldiers were killed and ten wounded in an incident at the army camp at Athurugiriya, 19 kilometres from Colombo at 0045 hours (local time) today, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that one soldier described as a sentry at the Sri Lanka Army signal corps detachment, at Athurugiriya, opened fire on other soldiers sleeping in the camp, spraying them with about 50 bullets fired from his own and the guns of his victims, mostly T-56 automatic rifles which were placed on racks.

The killer was himself shot dead allegedly by an officer who also had been shot at and wounded.

All weapons in the camp were secure, official sources said.

They said there were reports that two motorcycles had sped off from the vicinity of the camp immediately after the incident.

Official sources said investigations were being made into the incident.

LTTE Kills 4 in Mannar, Batticaloa

BK021036 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0951 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Two Muslims of Chavalakadu in the Mannar District were shot dead by the LTTE. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that one of them was the Mannar leader of the Muslim organization.

Two members of PLOTE were shot dead by the LTTE at Pettalai in Batticaloa on February 29 and March 1. They are Chandrasekeram who was killed by Sankar, a LTTE terrorist, and P. Mahendran.

One hardcore LTTE cadre was captured at Batticaloa by the Indian Peacekeeping Force along with two shotguns and two Mills [as received] grenades.